Written & Drawn by **Frank Miller** Colors by **Lynn Varley** Lettered by **Todd Klein** Batman created by **Bob Kane**

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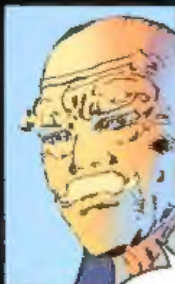
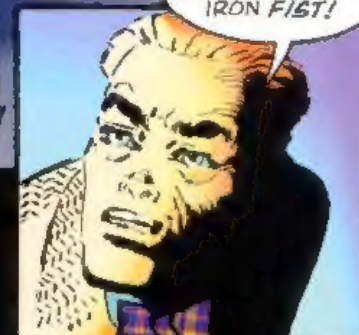
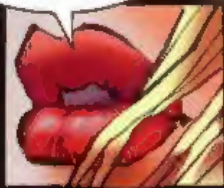
Cover Art by **Frank Miller** Cover Color by **Lynn Varley**

IT'S BEEN THREE YEARS SINCE, IN THE EYES OF THOSE WHO LIVE ABOVE, I DIED.
I'VE BEEN VERY PATIENT.
I'VE TRAINED MY STUDENTS AND HONED MY SKILLS.
I'VE WAITED.
I'VE WAITED--AND WATCHED THE WORLD GO RIGHT STRAIGHT TO HELL...
THE DOW JONES SOARS PAST 50,000! AFTER THIS:
YOU WANT IT...
JUST LISTEN TO THAT SON OF A BITCH!
THE STATE OF THE UNION IS STRONG--STRONGER THAN IT HAS EVER BEEN. TRULY, THESE ARE THE BEST OF TIMES.
CAREFUL THERE, OLSEN.
--CURFEW VIOLATIONS PLUMMET NATION-WIDE--
SURE IT'S STRONG! LIKE AN IRON FIST!
YOU MUST HAVE IT...

BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS RISE IN A STANDING OVATION FOR PRESIDENT RICKARD...
THANK YOU. THANK YOU. YOU'RE TOO KIND.
NOW, IT'S TAKEN SOME DOING--
YEAH, SOME DOING. LIKE REPEALING THE BILL OF RIGHTS!
OLSEN--WE HAVE SPONSORS TO THINK ABOUT.
--BUT WE HAVE ARRIVED. WE ARE AT PEACE--
YOU CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT IT...
AND YOU CAN HAVE IT...
OF COURSE WE'RE AT PEACE!
WE'VE KILLED JUST ABOUT EVERYBODY WHO DISAGREES WITH US!
--OUR CHILDREN LIVE IN A WORLD FREE OF CRIME--
OUR CHILDREN LIVE IN A DAMN POLICE STATE!
--WE ARE PROSPEROUS BEYOND THE DREAMS OF PREVIOUS GENERATIONS--
WE'RE WELL-PAID SLAVES!
WHO WILL STOP THIS?
YOU CAN HAVE IT. ANY TIME. DAY OR NIGHT...
MY PATIENCE IS AT ITS END.
THE TIME HAS COME.

IT'S SAFE. IT'S LEGAL. IT'S THE ULTIMATE HIGH...
...SO LET US SERVICE YOU. WE'LL NEVER LET YOUR STOCKS GO FLACCID.
UFORIA INVESTMENTS
MAYBE YOU'VE ALL FORGOTTEN, OUT THERE. MAYBE YOU THINK THEY WERE URBAN LEGENDS-- OR JUST COSTUMED CLOWNS--
--BUT THERE WERE MEN AND WOMEN WITH AMAZING ABILITIES--AND UNBRIDLED COURAGE--WHO BATTLED TYRANNY AND DEFEATED IT AT EVERY TURN!
WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM? WHERE ARE THEY?
WHERE ARE OUR HEROES?

SOMEWHERE ON EARTH.
SOMEWHERE COLD.
ENDLESSLY COLD.
WHERE MONSTERS DWELL.
WHERE MAN IS PREY.
ONE MAN-- ALONE--
--SAVAGE, HIS HUMANITY ALL BUT FORGOTTEN--
A WARRIOR BORN.

HE HASN'T EATEN IN DAYS.
HE DOESN'T EVEN BOTHER TO COOK IT.
HE IS BEYOND SHAME. BEYOND HOPE.

HOW LONG HAS HE BEEN HERE, IN HELL? HOW LONG? YEARS?
THERE'S NO WAY TO TELL.
THERE'S NO DAYTIME. NO SUN.
NOT EVEN A MOON.

ONLY DARKNESS AND COLD AND THE SEA AND ITS BEASTS.
THE SEA, STRETCHING OUT OF SIGHT IN EVERY DIRECTION. THE ENDLESS, ANGRY SEA.

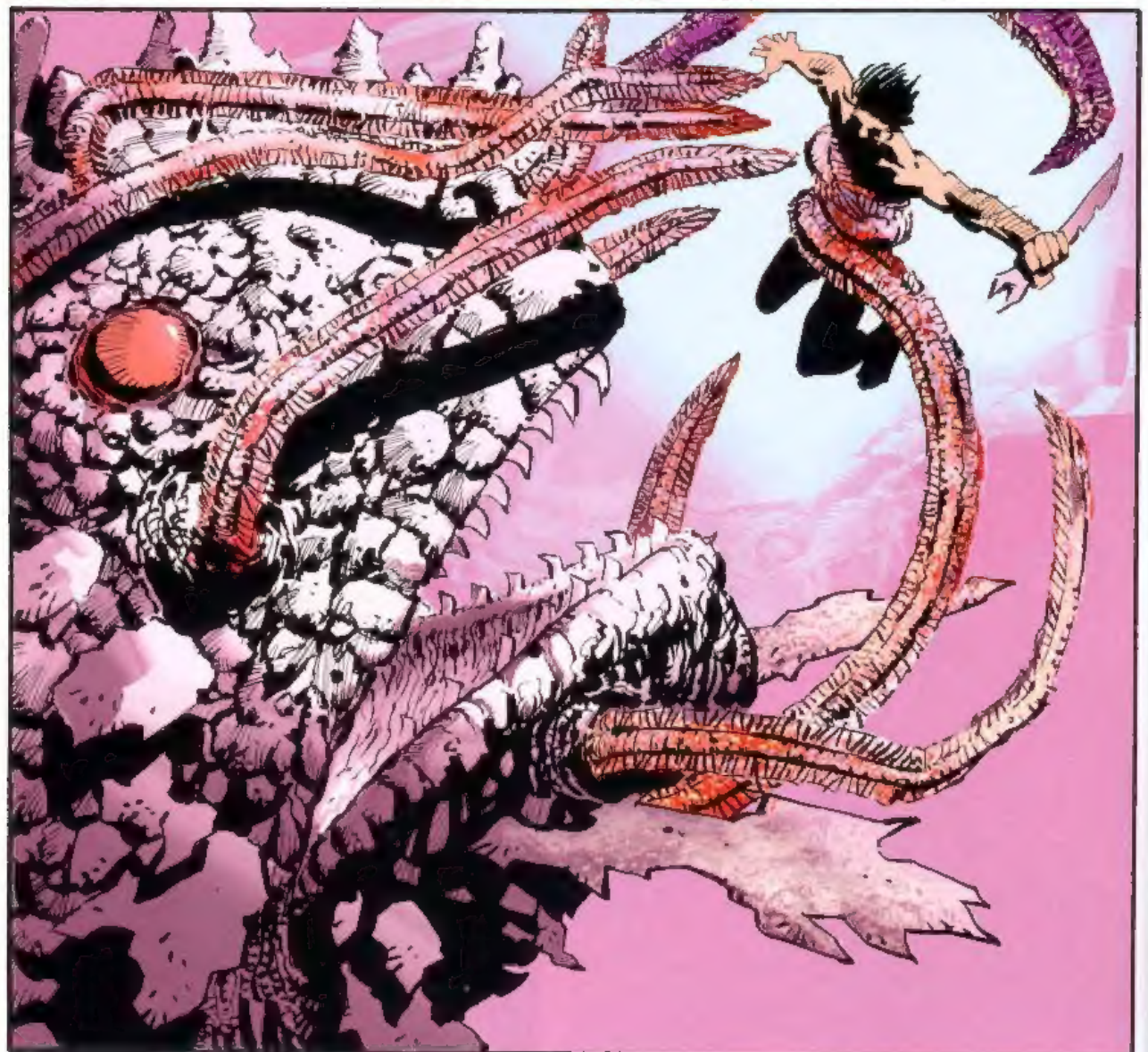
IT'S LIKE HE'S THE ONLY MAN IN THE WORLD.
IT'S ENOUGH TO DRIVE A MAN MAD.

HNH?...

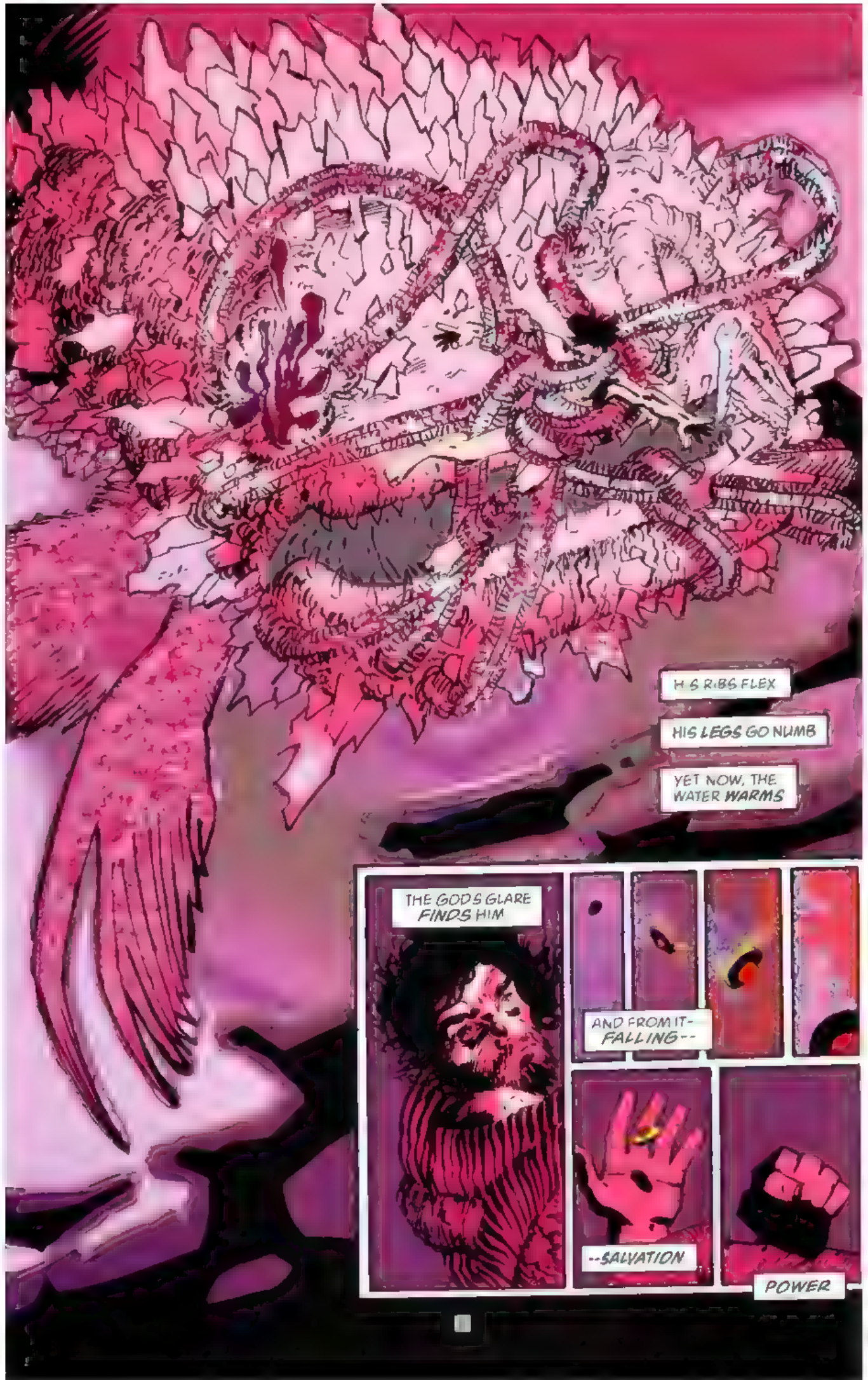
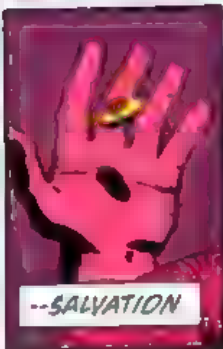
FROM THE SKY--LIKE THE GLARE OF SOME WRATHFUL GOD-- PROBING-- SEARCHING--
--LIGHT!

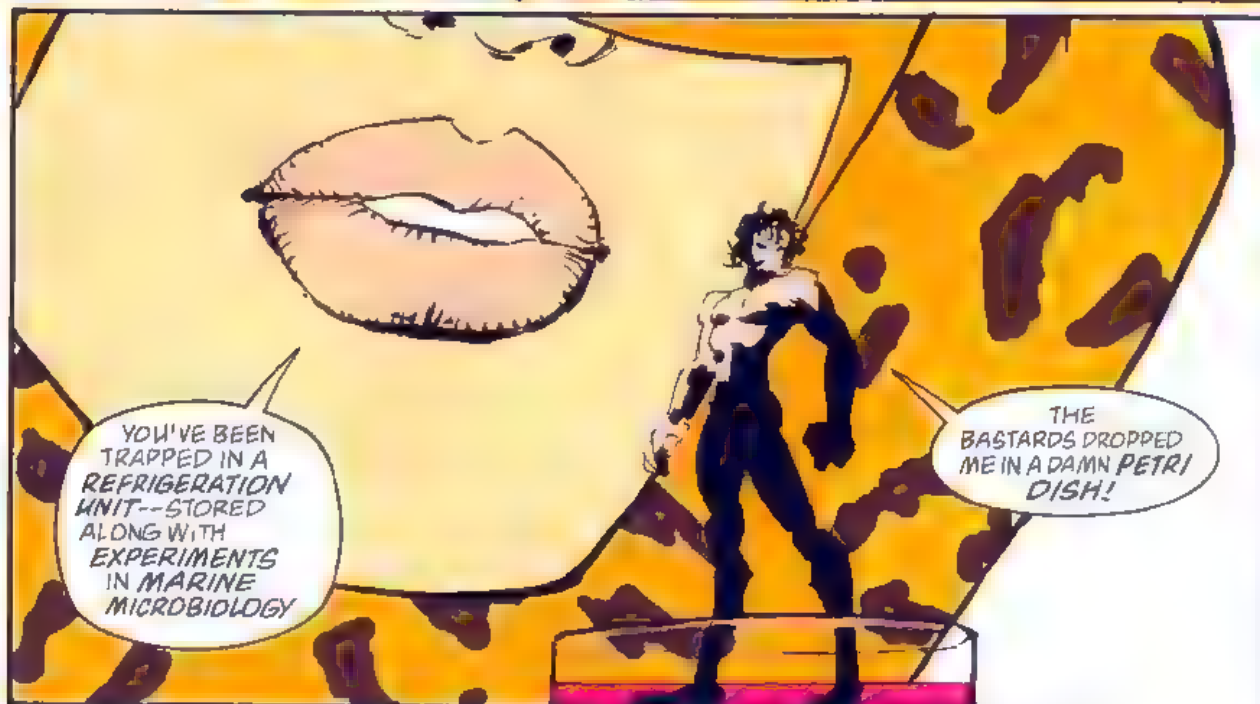
MAYBE HE HAS GONE MAD.
BUT HE HAS TO KNOW.
HE HAS TO KNOW.

BETTER TO
DIE THAN
GO ON LIKE
THIS.

BETTER TO DIE.

HE IS
UNAFRAID.

HE'S FACED FOES LARGER THAN HIMSELF BEFORE
MUCH LARGER
HE'S BATTLED BEHEMOTHS AND LEVIATHANS.

A THOUSAND TIMES
AND, SHOULD THIS THING BE THE DEATH OF HIM -
--IT WILL SURELY REMEMBER HIM

HIS RIBS FLEX
HIS LEGS GO NUMB
YET NOW, THE WATER WARMS
THE GODS GLARE FINDS HIM
AND FROM IT-- FALLING--
--SALVATION
POWER

POWER. THE STRENGTH OF A TITAN
NO AIR LEFT NO TIME TO SWIM TO THE SURFACE.
BUT HE DOESN'T NEED TO SWIM
HE SIMPLY STANDS.
RISING TO THE SKY--
--HE BREATHES DEEP OF FREEDOM
AND STILL HE RISES, A COLOSSUS..

WELCOME BACK, PROFESSOR PALMER
WHERE AM I?
YOU'RE IN A LABORATORY.
THE ENEMY USED YOUR OWN TECHNOLOGY TO IMPRISON YOU
YOU'VE BEEN TRAPPED IN A REFRIGERATION UNIT--STORED ALONG WITH EXPERIMENTS IN MARINE MICROBIOLOGY
THE BASTARDS DROPPED ME IN A DAMN PETRI DISH!

AND WHO WOULD YOU BE, SWEETHEART?
CAROLINE KEENE KELLEY, SIR.
BRUCE SENT ME
THAT'D BE JUST LIKE OLD BATS. SENDING IN A KID.
I'M HARDLY A CHILD, PROFESSOR. I'M SIXTEEN YEARS OLD.
I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.
ALERT. SECURITY BREACH ON LEVEL EIGHTY-SIX.
PRIORITY ALPHA. SHOOT TO KILL.
PRIORITY ALPHA SHOOT TO KILL.
OH, SHIT! THIS WASN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN!
GET REALLY SMALL! RIGHT NOW!
WHOA!

SHOOT TO KILL. PROPERTY DAMAGE ACCEPTABLE.
ALERT. SHOOT TO KILL ALE
CHUCKS--
"CHUCKS"?

-GIVE ME WHEELS!
"WHEELS"?

SNAKK!
OH
I STILL DON'T GET THE "CHUCKS" PART.

I AM NOT TOAST
I'M A TRAINED PROFESSIONAL.
TRAINED BY THE BEST.
TWEETY! CONTINGENCY PLAN ICHIBAN! GET INTO POSITION!
CHUCKS! MOTOR!

IT'S NOTHING BUT A WHOLE LOT OF MEN WITH GUNS LOOKING TO KILL ME
"MOTOR"?...
I'VE HANDLED THIS KIND OF THING BEFORE DOZENS OF TIMES.

..OH I GET IT IT'S A VERB
DOZENS OF TIMES
IN SIMULA-TION, ANYWAY

WHOOF!
DON'T BE CONCERNED, PROFESSOR
YOU'RE IN GOOD HANDS
OVER THERE.
IT'S A GIRL--

RELAX. THERE'S NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THIS AND SIMULATION -- THE SAME RULES APPLY--
--NO DIFFERENCE-- EXCEPT IF YOU CATCH A BULLET IN THE REAL WORLD, YOU'RE TOAST.
STOP IT. DON'T THINK LIKE A LOSER
POOM
OVER THERE--
I'VE GOT HER--
POOM
YOU ARE NOT TOAST.
YOU'RE A TRAINED PROFESSIONAL.
BDAM
RELAX. IT'S EASY
IT'S EASY
I'VE GOT HER--
DO IT RIGHT.
POOM
GO FOR THE HEAD.
BREAK HIS JAW. IT CAN BE FIXED.
DON'T BREAK HIS NECK.
BUT BRING HIM DOWN.
IT'S EASY.
PIECE OF CAKE
KRAK
GAAK

KRUNCH
BRING HIM DOWN.
KEEP HIM DOWN

SLICK WORK, KITTEN.
--BUT WE STILL DON'T HAVE THE JOINT TO OUR-SELVES.
I'M WELL AWARE OF THAT, SIR. EVERY-THING'S UNDER CONTROL.
GET SMALLER. A LOT SMALLER. LIKE AN ASPIRIN PILL. NOW!

YOU LITTLE BITCH-- YOU'RE TOAST!
CHUCKS! BUTT FIRST IT!
PEEL!
WHAT'S WITH THAT OUTFIT?
WHO CARES? BLOW HER IN HALF!
YOUNG ENOUGH TO BE MY DAUGHTER...

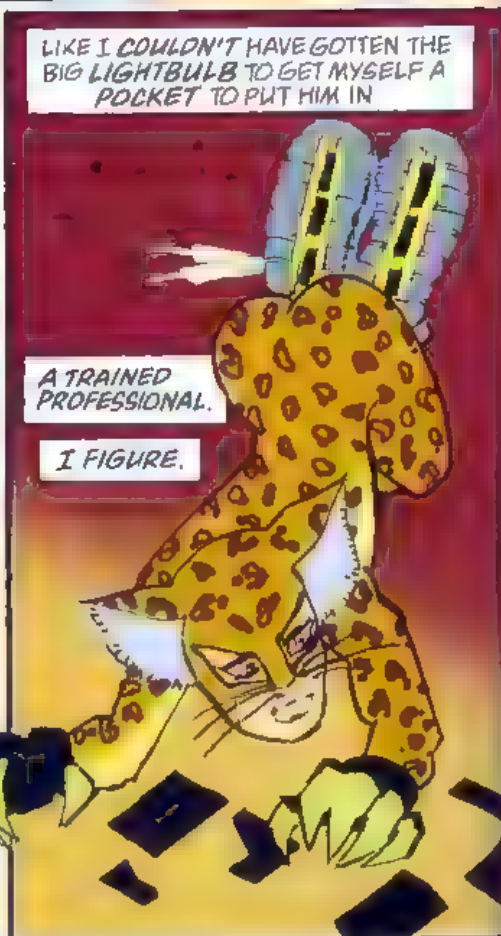
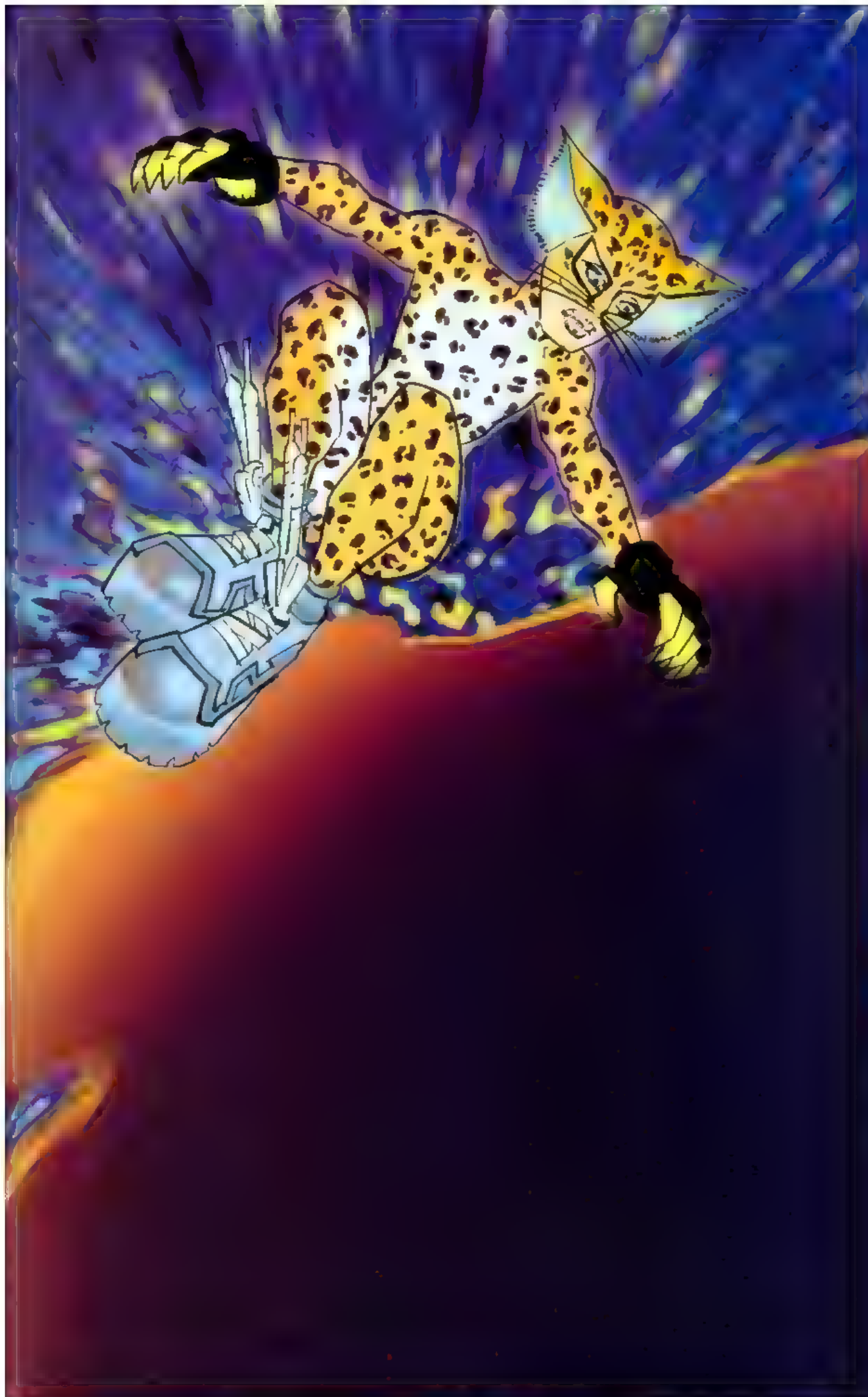
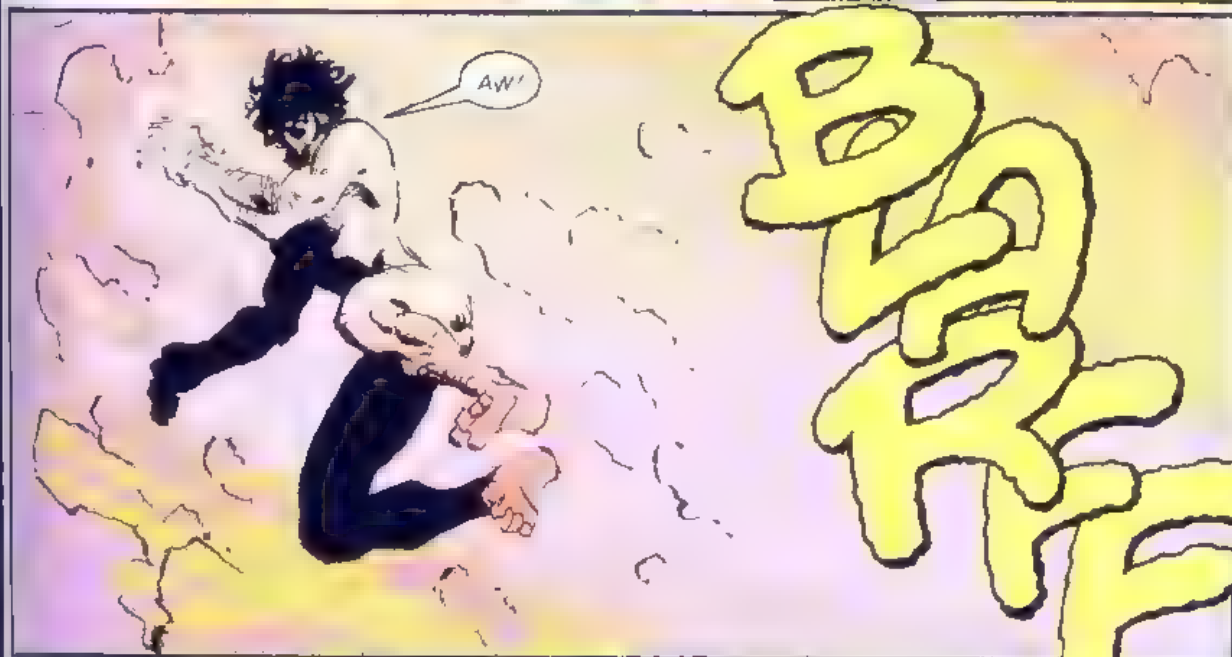
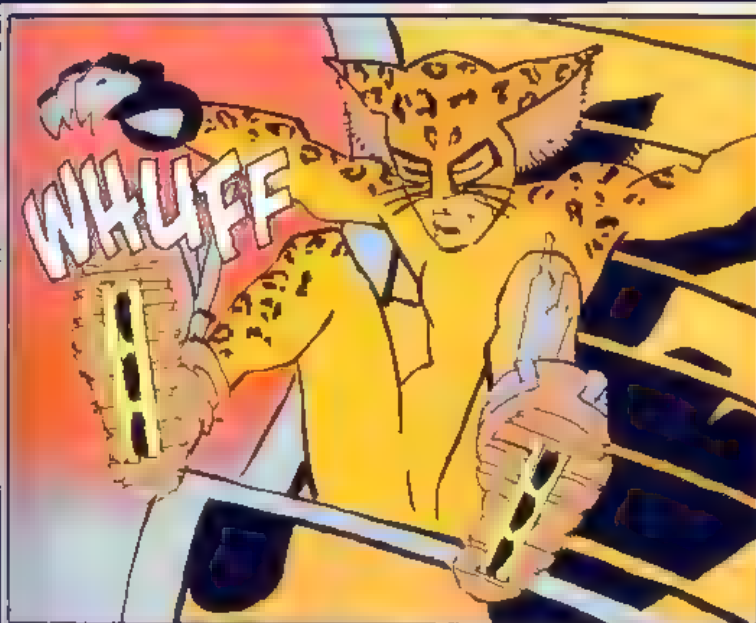
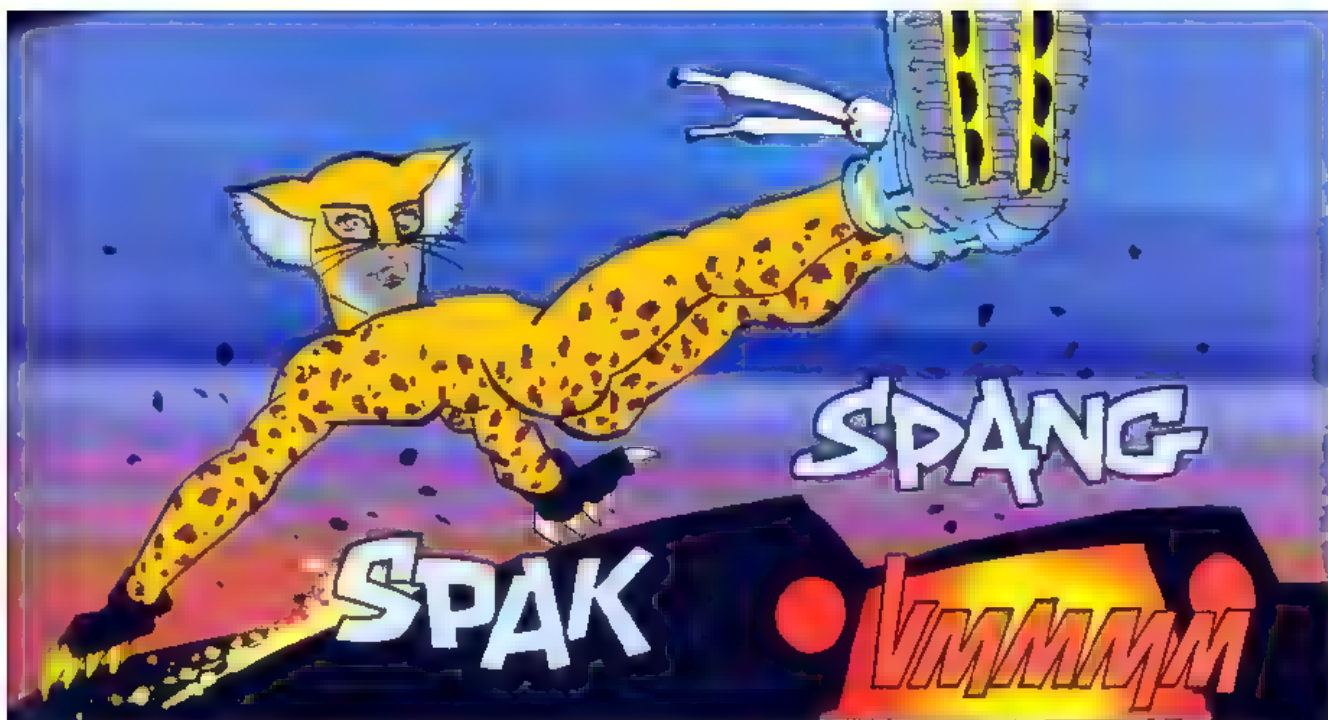
RELAX. IT'S EASY.
LIKE FALLING OFF A LOG.
OR THE TOP OF A SKY-SCRAPER.
TWEETY! BILLY IN CLOSE! ACE THE CLOAK!
CHUCKS! SUCK BACK THE WHEELS!
SPANG
SPANG
SPANG

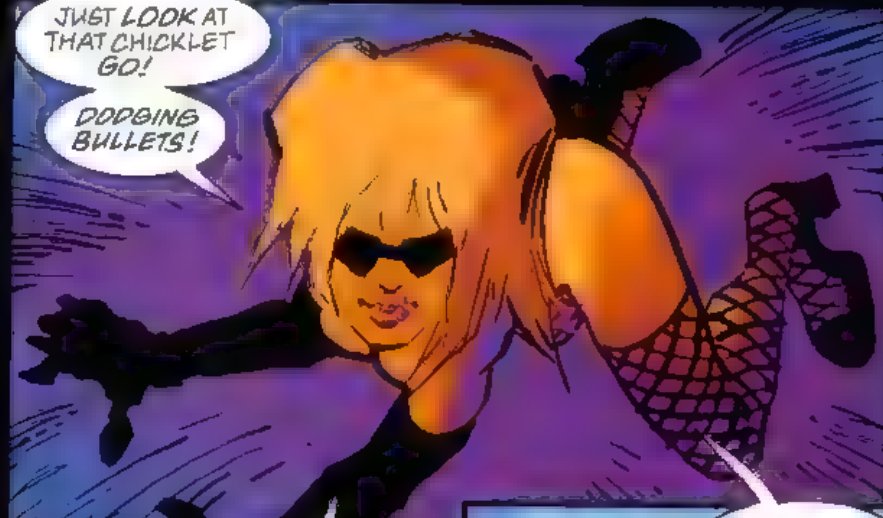
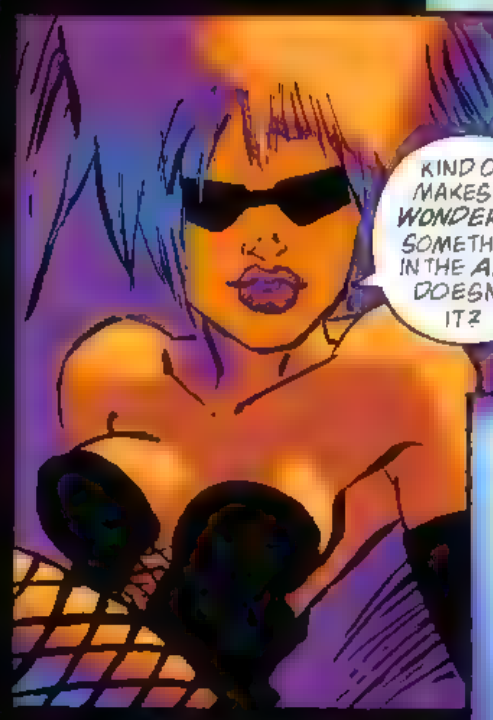
TWEETY.
RIGHT IN PLACE. RIGHT ON TIME.
RELAX YOU'RE ONLY ABOUT A MILE UP
IT'S EASY.
GULP
NGG
AW, HELL...

SPANG
SPAK
VMMMMM

WHUFF

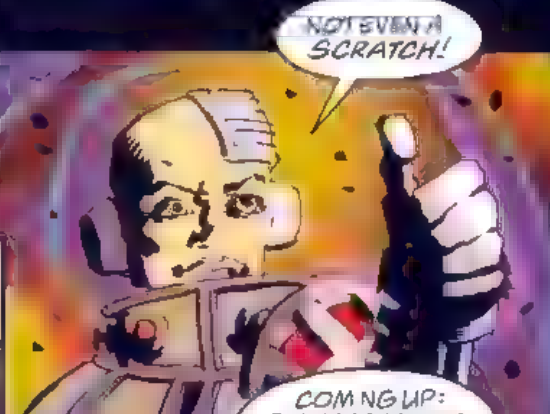
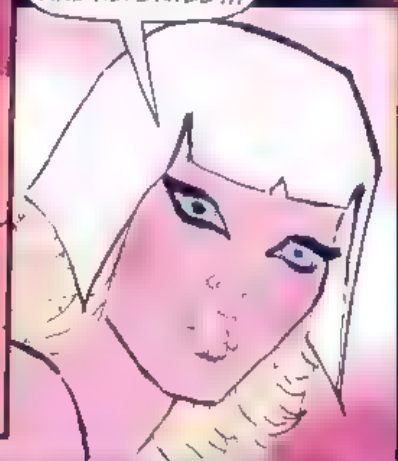
GROSS I SWALLOWED.
I THINK I'M GONNA HURL...

AW!
BLARF

AT THE TOP OF THE NEWS--A DARING ASSAULT ON PALMER LABORATORIES!
ASSESSING THE SITUATION, THE PRESIDENT MINCED NO WORDS:
STOLEN WERE MATERIALS THAT COULD BE USED FOR BIOLOGICAL WARFARE
WE MUST REMAIN CALM
NATIONAL SECURITY ENFORCEMENT DIRECTOR BILL PRICK:
EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THAT THIS WAS THE WORK OF AGENTS FROM A ROGUE NATION
...NO, OLSEN, I WILL NOT TELL YOU WHAT EVIDENCE. WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TALKING TO, YOU LITTLE PUTZ?
IN LIGHT OF THIS CRISIS, THE PRESIDENT HAS EXTENDED THE STATE OF MARTIAL LAW INTO ITS NINETEENTH MONTH--
THAT'S THE STORY THEY WANT YOU TO HEAR.
BUT THE HAPPY HACKER'S GOT THE REAL DISH
CHECK THIS OUT--STRAIGHT FROM THE LAB'S OWN SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM
IF THAT LITTLE NUMBER'S A FOREIGN TERRORIST, THEN I'M A GUY.
AND YOU KNOW I'M NOT A GUY
BRUCE, YOU MANIAC. YOU DAMN FOOL. WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?
IT'S YOU. I KNOW IT'S YOU. NOBODY ELSE COULD BE SO GOOD AT BEING CRAZY
YOU DAMN FOOL.
THIS WASN'T THE DEAL.
THIS WASN'T THE DEAL.

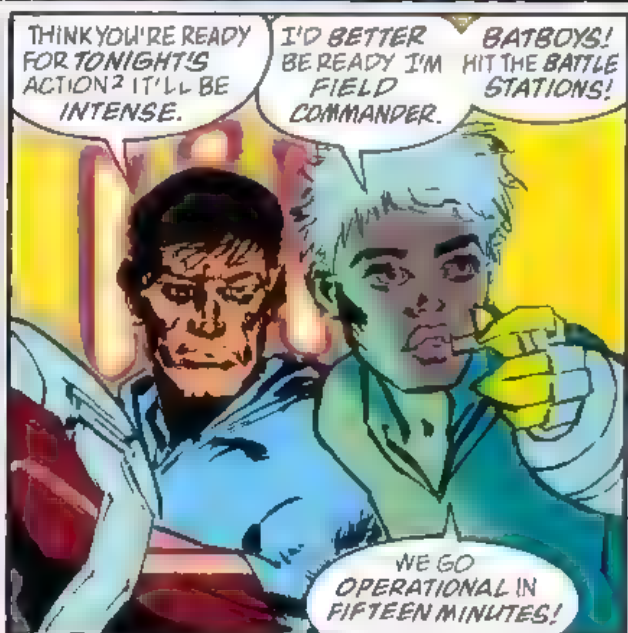
THAT'S RIGHT, ADVENTURE LOVERS! YOUR DIGITAL DARLING IS ONLINE! AND, HONEY, I'VE GOT THE GOODS!
JUST LOOK AT THAT CHICKLET GO!
DODGING BULLETS!
LEAPING FROM TALL BUILDINGS!
DEFYING DEATH!
AND BEST OF ALL, WEARING TIGHTS!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE'VE SEEN THIS KIND OF ACTION!
KIND OF MAKES YOU WONDER IF SOMETHING'S IN THE AIR, DOESN'T IT?
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO LIE LOW. YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO STAY QUIET.
BUT YOU LET HER WEAR THE TIGHTS
YOU LET HER WEAR THE TIGHTS.

I'D BEEN NEGOTIATING PALMER'S RELEASE FOR MONTHS. WE'D ALMOST COME TO TERMS
NOW YOU'VE GONE AND MADE A CRIME OF IT--AND YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY TO MAKING A HORRID MESS OF THINGS.
YOU DON'T KNOW THE STAKES. YOU DON'T KNOW HOW MANY MILLIONS OF LIVES HANG IN THE BALANCE.
I TRIED TO TELL YOU BUT YOU WOULDN'T LISTEN.
WE'LL ALL PAY FOR THIS. WE, AND TEN MILLION INNOCENTS.
YOUR ARROGANCE WILL BRING CALAMITY. ATROCITY. GENOCIDE.

CONDITION RED!
MOTIVE POWER AT ZERO! OUR DIREC-TIONAL SYSTEMS ARE SHOT!
HOUSTON! WE'RE GOING DOWN!
DON'T TELL ME WHO'S ON THE SIDE OF THE ANGELS, BRUCE.
I GET TO SAVE LIVES.
YOU DON'T.

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?
WE'VE HIT SOMETHING-- SOMETHING BIG!
BUT THERE'S NOTHING TO HIT!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! WE'RE SLOWING DOWN!
WHUCC
IT'S NOT POSSIBLE! THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!
GNAAAA
THIS USED TO BE...
...SO EASY...

DESPITE TOTAL TECHNICAL FAILURE--
--A SPECTACULAR LANDING BY SPACE SHUTTLE RODHAM!
NO CASUALTIES ARE REPORTED...
NEWS IN THE NUDE
NOT EVEN A SCRATCH!
COMING UP: GIANT ASTEROID THREATENS ENTIRE HUMAN RACE!
MY CAVE
MY ENDLESS, BOTTOMLESS CAVE.
AN OLD FRIEND
RAY PALMER
THE ATOM
ARE YOU KIDDING?
I'VE HAD A HAIRCUT AND A SHAVE. I'VE HAD A HOT SHOWER. I'VE HAD MY FIRST COOKED MEAL AND MY FIRST DECENT NIGHT'S SLEEP IN TWO YEARS.
AND I'M NOT LIVING IN A PETRI DISH.
YOU BET I'M READY FOR ACTION
GOOD I HAVE QUITE A TALE TO TELL-- AND WE HAVE A WORLD OF WORK TO DO
JUST LIKE OLD TIMES, HM?
NO.
NOT LIKE OLD TIMES
IT'S A WHOLE NEW BALLGAME

THE END OF THE WORLD?
IT ALL STARTED INNOCENTLY ENOUGH--
--A TEST OF THE CONTROVERSIAL, FIVE-TRILLION-DOLLAR PLANETARY DEFENSE SYSTEM.
A NUCLEAR WARHEAD WAS LAUNCHED TO INTERCEPT A MASSIVE ASTEROID THAT POSED NO CONCEIVABLE THREAT TO PLANET EARTH
BUT SOMETHING WENT TERRIBLY WRONG.
THE WARHEAD, MISSING ITS TARGET BY MILES, NONETHELESS DETONATED--KICKING THE ASTEROID FROM ITS NATURAL COURSE--
--SENDING IT HURTLING RIGHT AT US.
JOINING US IS PLANETOID SPECIALIST ALEX AXELROD.
DOCTOR--WHAT IF IT HITS?
THE CONSEQUENCES WILL BE BIBLICAL. THAT HONKER'S THE SIZE OF MANHATTAN
IF IT HITS, WE CAN KISS THE DINOSAURS HELLO--AND KISS OUR OWN SORRY BUTTS GOODBYE!
WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK WITH WIDER COVERAGE
DON'T MISS AN INCH.
OHMYGOD! THERE HE IS!
DON'T WHEEZE, CARRIE...
SIR--MAY I SPEAK WITH YOU FOR A MOMENT?
SKIK

SURE, KID. WHAT'S UP?
I JUST WANTED TO SAY I'VE ALWAYS ADMIRED YOU AS A SCIENTIST AND A CHAMPION OF JUSTICE AND I'M REALLY SORRY I PUKED YOU UP LIKE I DID
THAT WASN'T VERY PROFESSIONAL.

YOU DIDN'T DO SO BADLY. AND YOU ACCOMPLISHED YOUR MISSION, DIDN'T YOU? YOU GOT ME OUT OF THERE. YOU'VE GOT TALENT--AND GUTS.
THANK YOU, SIR
HE'S AT FULL SIZE, AND HE'S STILL NOT ALL THAT BIG.
SURE LIKE ONLY A FOOT TALLER THAN ME
I DON'T SAY A WORD ABOUT HIS HAIRCUT

THINK YOU'RE READY FOR TONIGHT'S ACTION? IT'LL BE INTENSE.
I'D BETTER BE READY. I'M FIELD COMMANDER.
BATBOYS! HIT THE BATTLE STATIONS!
WE GO OPERATIONAL IN FIFTEEN MINUTES!

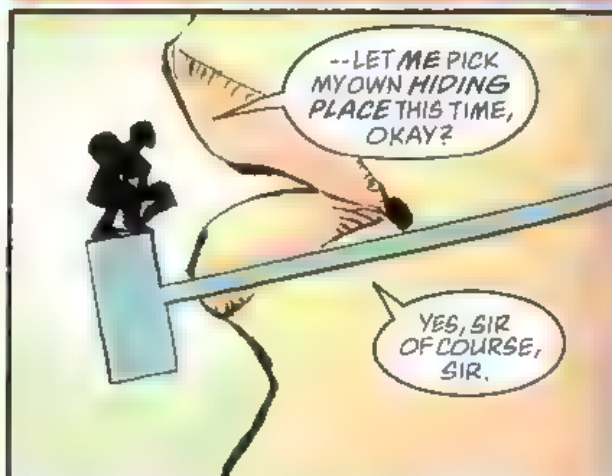
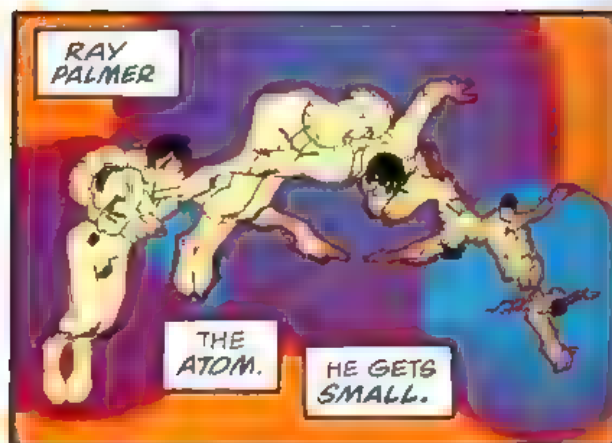
"BATBOYS"?

YEAH. THEY HATE IT WHEN I CALL THEM THAT.

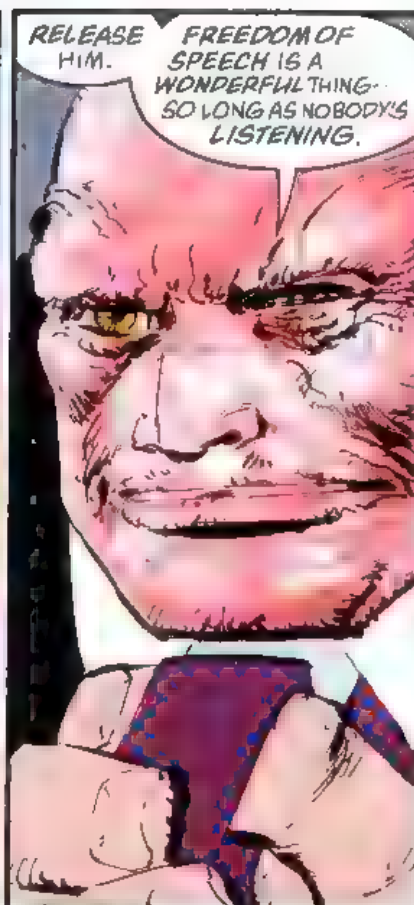
YOU'VE GOT ATTITUDE, TOO. IT TAKES ATTITUDE. YOU'LL DO WELL.
I'VE GOT ONE REQUEST-- IF YOU WOULD, OUT OF RESPECT FOR YOUR ELDERS--

RAY PALMER
THE ATOM.
HE GETS SMALL.

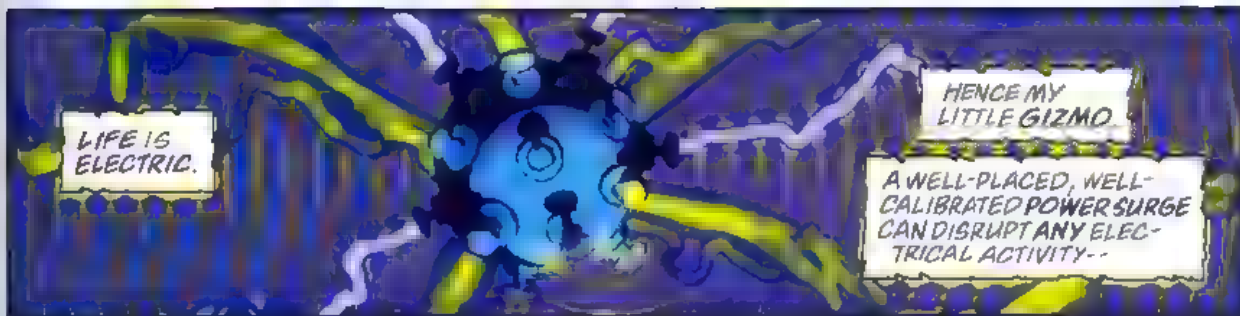
--LET ME PICK MY OWN HIDING PLACE THIS TIME, OKAY?
YES, SIR OF COURSE, SIR.

BACK TO THAT KILLER ASTEROID.
SPEAKING TO REPORTERS, THE PRESIDENT EXUDED AN UNNATURAL LEVEL OF CONFIDENCE...
NEWS IN THE NUDE

THERE'S NO CALL FOR PANIC. EVERYTHING'S UNDER CONTROL.
..ALMOST LIKE HE KNEW SOMETHING WE DIDN'T...
YOU MEDIA FOLKS HAVE BLOWN THIS ALL OUT OF PROPORTION.
THE PRESS CONFERENCE SUFFERED A BIZARRE INTERRUPTION.
KEEP IN MIND THAT WHAT YOU'RE ABOUT TO SEE IS NOT A TRANSMISSION ERROR--AND THAT IT TOOK PLACE IN FRONT OF LIVE WITNESSES:
HERE IT COMES!
WE STILL HAVE SEVERAL DAYS TO TAKE OUT THAT HUNK OF ROCK--
BLINK AND YOU'LL MISS IT!
--AND WE'VE GOT POWERFUL RESOURCES TO DEPLOY.

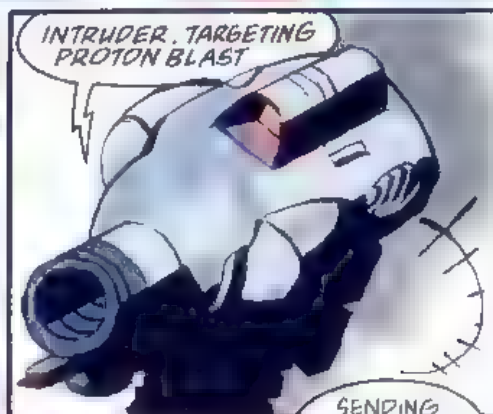
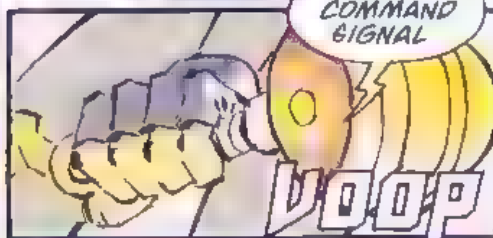
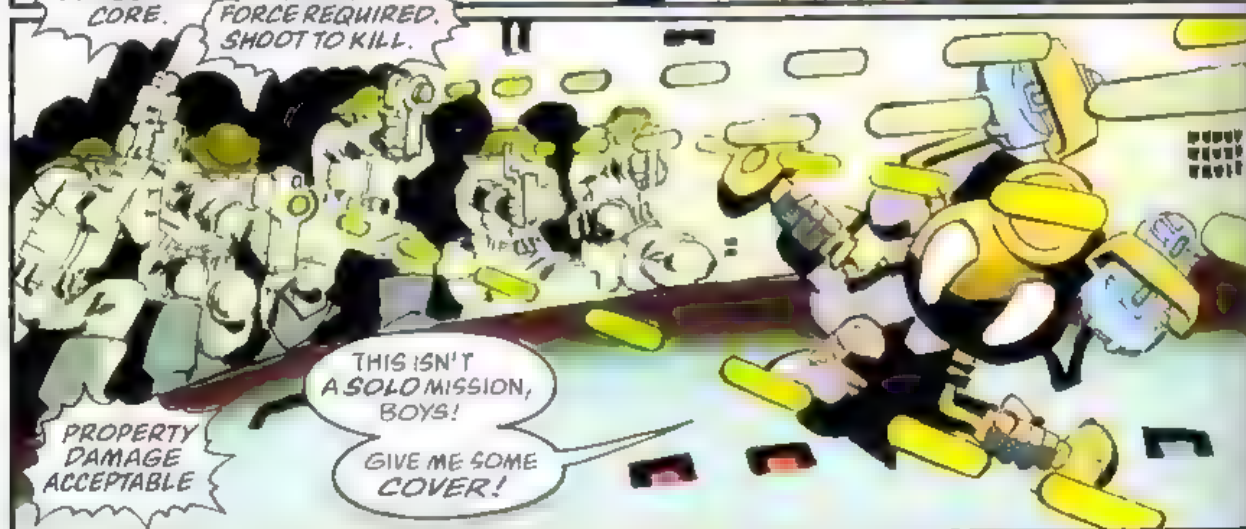
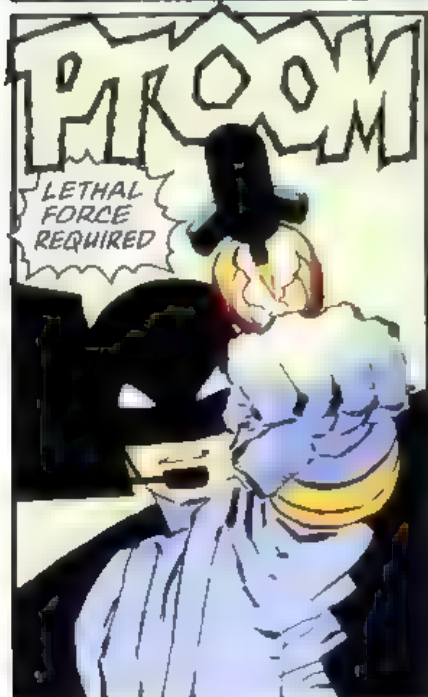
PANDEMONIUM BROKE OUT. SECRET SERVICE AGENTS PRE-VENTED WHAT APPEARED TO BE A PHYSICAL ASSAULT ON THE PRESIDENT--BY MAVERICK JOURNALIST JAMES OLSEN.
WHAT WAS THAT? WHAT HAPPENED?
--THIS IS BULLSHIT!
HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED HE'S NEVER SHAKEN ANYBODY'S HAND OR KISSED A BABY? A SAVVY OPERATOR LIKE RICK RICKARD? HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHY?
YOU'VE GOT YOUR ANSWER NOW!
HE DOESN'T EXIST!
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS A COMPUTER-GENERATED IMAGE!
STRONG WORDS
IF OLSEN'S RIGHT--
--WHO'S HOLDING THE JOYSTICK?
IF THIS HAPPENS AGAIN--I'LL BREAK YOUR SCRAWNY NECK MYSELF!
:KOFF:
I SWEAR IT WON'T, SIR. OUR TEAM WILL FIND THE GLITCH.

THAT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH. HE NEEDS A WHOLE NEW PROGRAM.
REFORMAT THE PRESIDENT--AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, SPIKE UP HIS COMPASSION LEVELS. HE'S COMING ACROSS A LITTLE COLD. NOW GET OUT OF MY SIGHT.
SIR-- WHAT ABOUT OLSEN?
WE'VE GOT HIM ON A FELONY.

RELEASE HIM.
FREEDOM OF SPEECH IS A WONDERFUL THING-- SO LONG AS NOBODY'S LISTENING.

--SO LONG AS NOBODY'S LISTENING.

Distant
No. Not
SPECIAL REPORT
...MASSIVE EXPLOSIONS RIPPING ACROSS THE KANEMITSU POWER COMPLEX--THREATENING ELECTRICAL SUPPLY FOR THE ENTIRE EASTERN SEABOARD.
THIS COULD BE THE SECOND TERRORIST ATTACK ON OUR NATIONAL SECURITY IN LESS THAN A WEEK.
AT THE SCENE IS LANA HARPER-LANE.
LANA - HOW DO THINGS LOOK FROM THE GROUND?
IT'S UTTER CHAOS DOWN HERE, CHIP! SECURITY FORCES ARE SO OVERWHELMED THEY HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO CHASE US AWAY--
OUTTA MY WAY!
OOF!
UP THERE-- WHAT ARE THOSE THINGS?
GET A CAMERA ON THEM, DAMN IT!
THIS IS IT, CLARK. NO MORE SKIRMISHES. NO MORE COMPROMISES. NO MORE DEALS.
NO MORE SECRECY. NO MORE SILENCE.
NO MORE PRETENDING THAT WE DON'T EXIST.
NOT ONE MORE LIE.
DAMN THE CONSEQUENCES.
THE WAR BEGINS.

LIFE IS ELECTRIC.
HENCE MY LITTLE GIZMO.
A WELL-PLACED, WELL-CALIBRATED POWER SURGE CAN DISRUPT ANY ELECTRICAL ACTIVITY--

--EVEN THE HUMAN NERVOUS SYSTEM.
MY LITTLE GIZMO. IT WORKS BETTER THAN NERVE GAS.
TOO BAD IT DOESN'T WORK ON KRYPTONIANS. BUT I'VE GOT SOME OTHER SWEET TRICKS PLANNED FOR YOU, CLARK...
TAK TAK

THAT WAS THE EASY PART, BATBOYS. NOW BEAT FEET! WE'RE GOING IN!
HERB--THAT CANNON UP AHEAD--CHANGE ITS MIND.
SURE THING, COMMANDER! CONFIDENCE IS HIGH!

INTRUDER. TARGETING PROTON BLAST
SENDING COMMAND SIGNAL
VOOP
POOM
COMMAND SIGNAL RECEIVED.
ENJOY YOUR STAY

LOOK SHARP! YOU KNOW THE ORDERS!
PLAY IT LOUD AND HARD! STEALTH BE DAMNED! IT'S SHOW-TIME!
EMERGENCY. ALL PERSONNEL. SANCTUM PENETRATED. POTENTIAL DANGER TO CORE.
LETHAL FORCE REQUIRED. SHOOT TO KILL.
PROPERTY DAMAGE ACCEPTABLE
THIS ISN'T A SOLO MISSION, BOYS!
GIVE ME SOME COVER!

GHAA!
THUNK
THUNK
THUNK
THUNK
THUNK

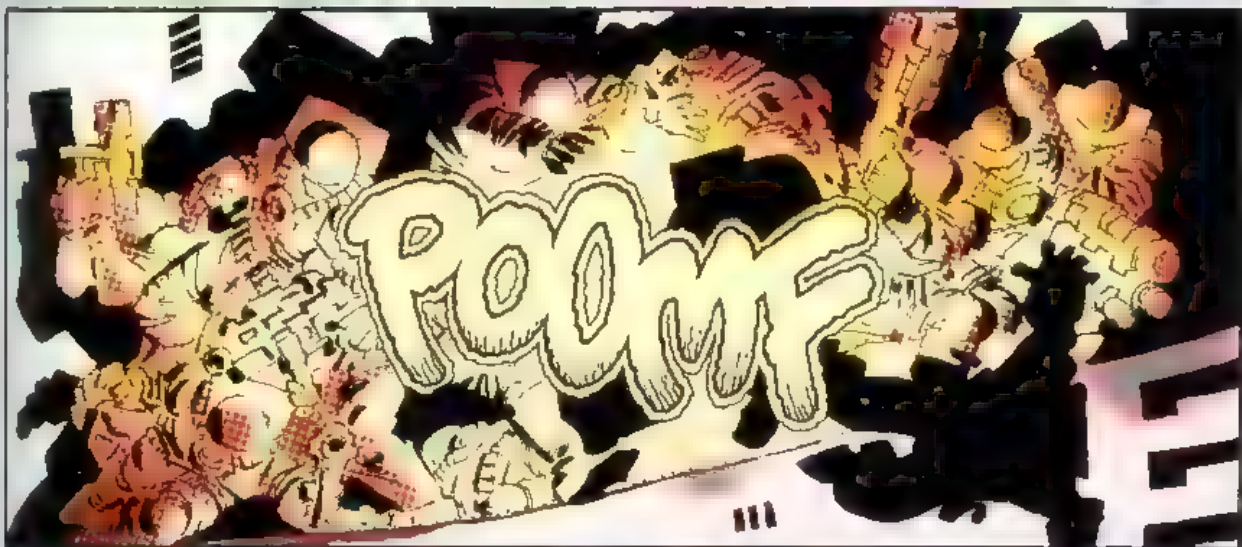
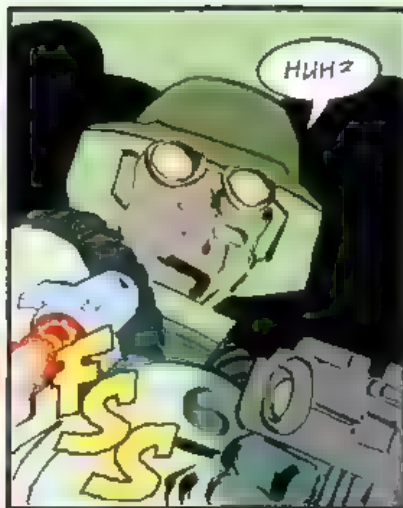
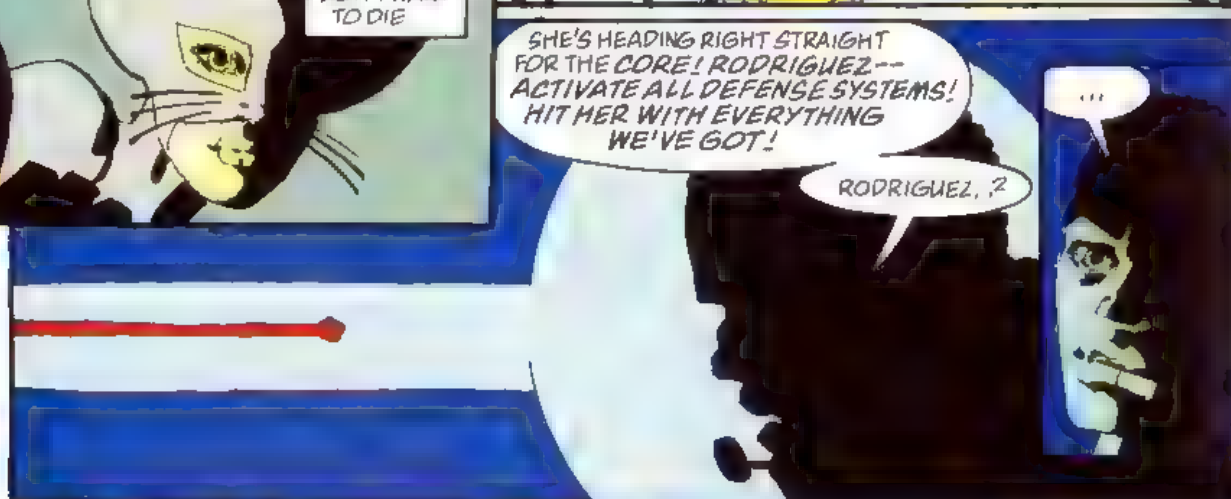
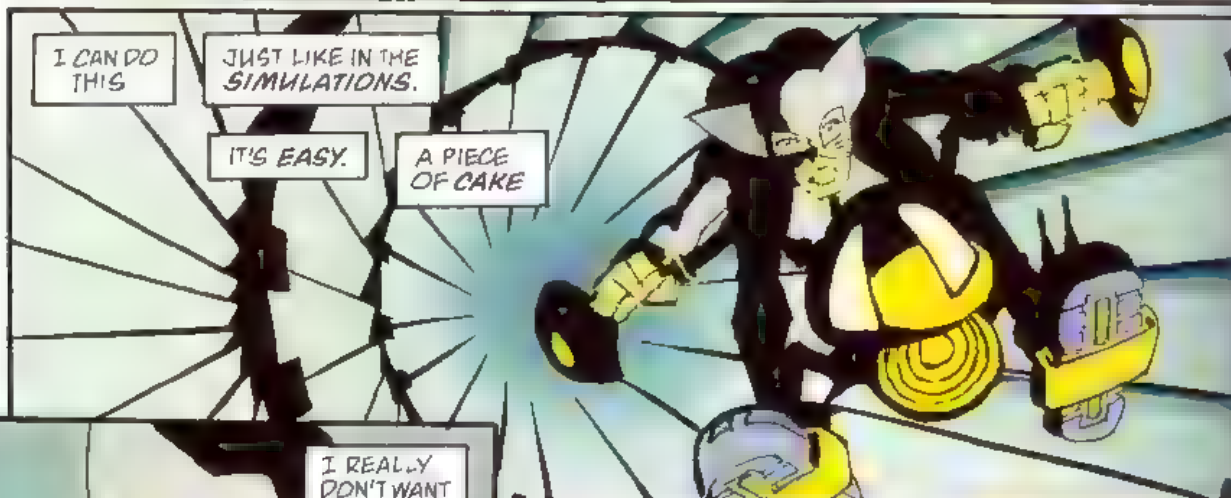
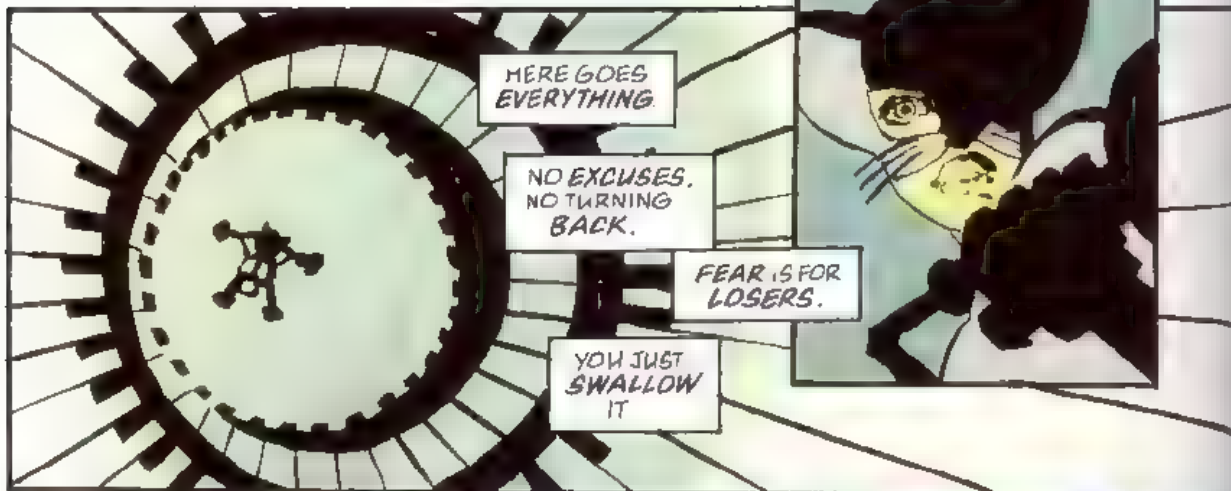
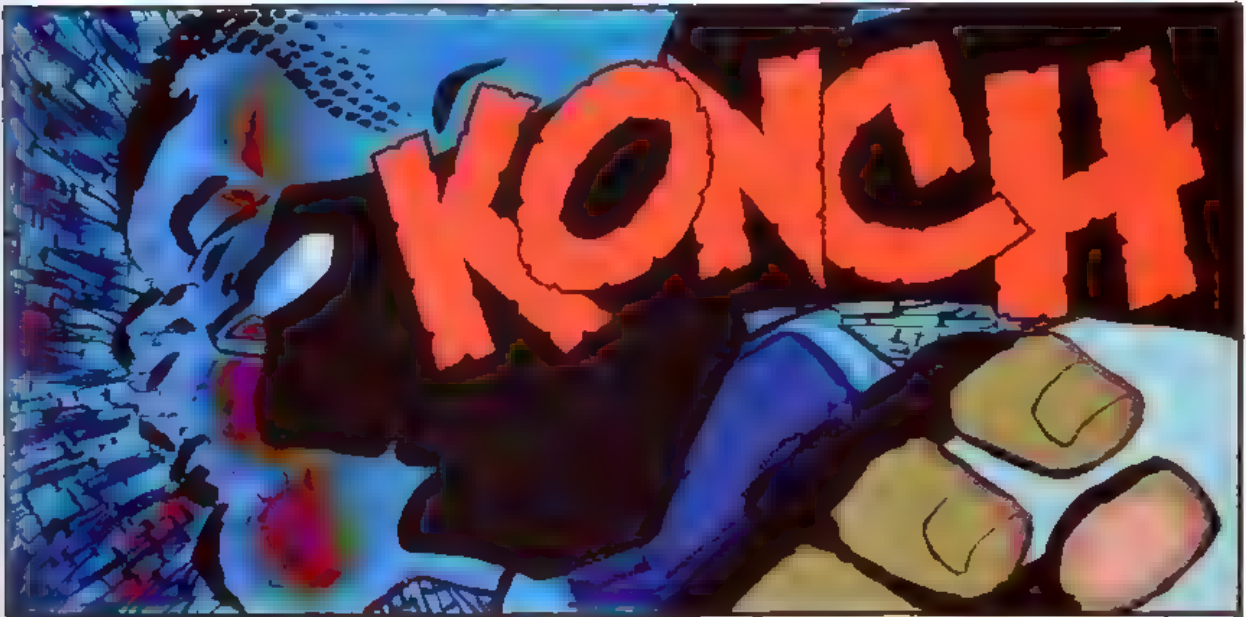
YAHGG!

HUH?
FSS

POOMF

BITCHIN' DEBUT, DON!
WICKED BITCHIN', ROB!
UNFF
GAKK!
YAA!
YA--

HERE GOES EVERYTHING.
NO EXCUSES. NO TURNING BACK.
FEAR IS FOR LOSERS.
YOU JUST SWALLOW IT
I CAN DO THIS
JUST LIKE IN THE SIMULATIONS.
IT'S EASY.
A PIECE OF CAKE
I REALLY DON'T WANT TO DIE
SHE'S HEADING RIGHT STRAIGHT FOR THE CORE! RODRIGUEZ-- ACTIVATE ALL DEFENSE SYSTEMS! HIT HER WITH EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT!
...
RODRIGUEZ..?
...OH, JESUS. WHAT IN HELL IS GOING ON?
SON--YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO KNOW.
AW, NO--IT CAN'T BE--YOU'RE DEAD...

KONCH

I STEAL A FEW SECONDS--
--TO CHECK IN ON THE TROOPS.

MY BOYS
THEY USED TO BE A WORTHLESS, DOOMED GANG OF STREET THUGS. CRIMINALS
THE KIND I USED TO HUNT
JUST LOOK AT THEM NOW

AND DEAR CARRIE CATGIRL
SHE MEMORIZED EVERY LAST VECTOR OF THEIR LASER DEFENSE SEQUENCE-- IN A SINGLE AFTERNOON
SHE'S A NATURAL
STAY SHARP, MY LITTLE DARLING
NO FALSE MOVES

FRANTIC COMMANDS BARK ACROSS THE COMM SYSTEM LIKE PACKS OF WILD DOGS
I DON'T SHUT THEM DOWN QUITE THE OPPOSITE.
I BRING THE VOLUME UP.
WAY UP

BAD GUYS BOGGIN', FLOTSAM
BOGGIN' BUT NASTY, JETSAM GONE JELLYKNEES!
BASH AND DASH, MAN! BASH AND DASH!
AARR
SHUT DOWN YOUR COMMS! SHUT THEM DOWN!
UNGG
URGG
YAA!
SO LOUD-- MY GOD--CAN'T THINK--
STILL NO WORD FROM THE KANEMITSU COMPLEX!
WHO IS BEHIND THIS ATTACK?
WHAT DO THEY WANT?
DON'T WHEEZE, CARRIE
STAY SHARP
NO FALSE MOVES.
BKOW BKOW
HERB-- BILLY IN RIGHT AT THE BIG UGLY-- AUTO-DESTRUCT IN THREE SECONDS
WILL DO! THREE SECONDS...
DON'T WHEEZE.
IT'S EASY
IT'S EASY.

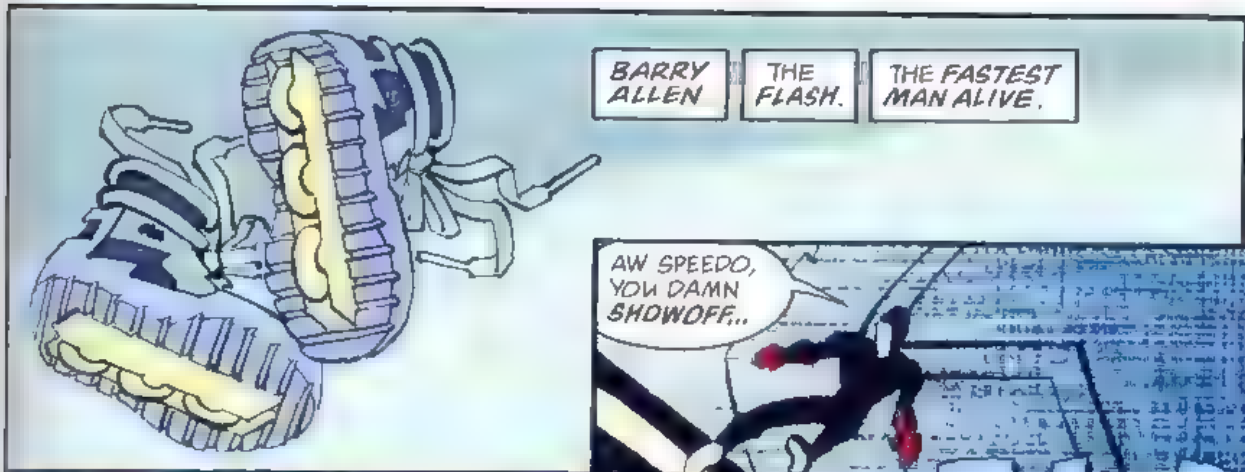
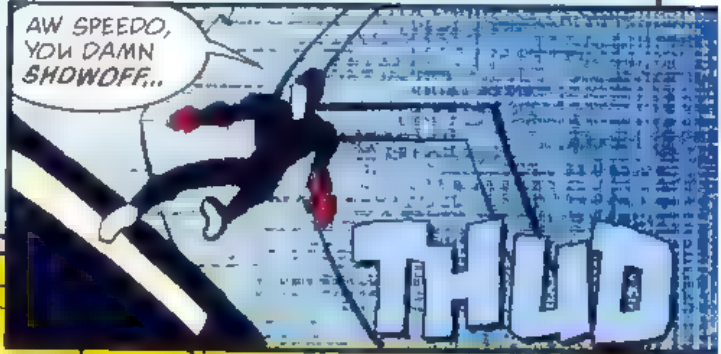
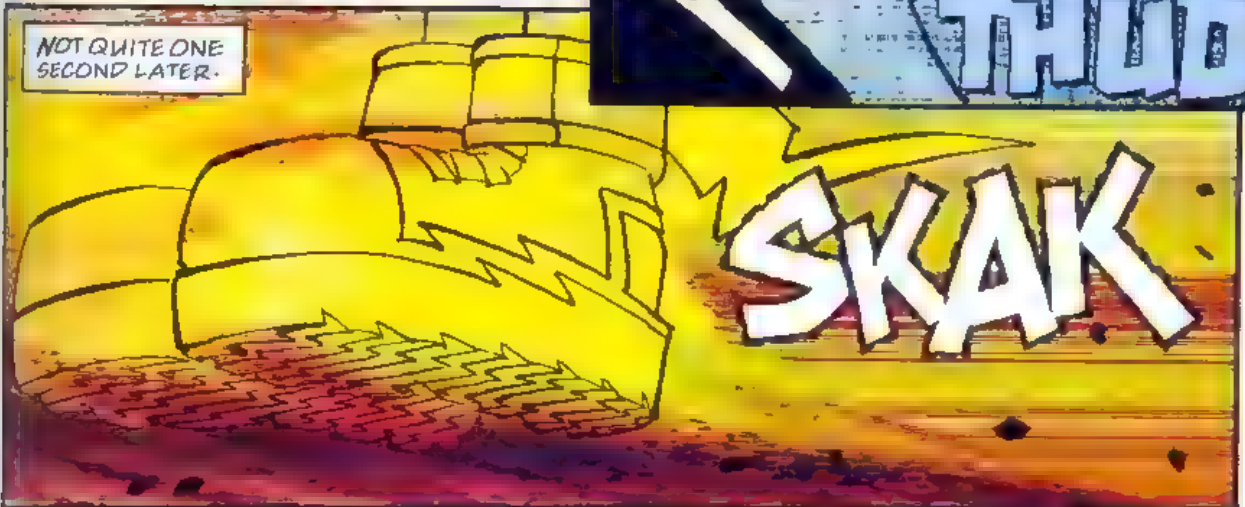
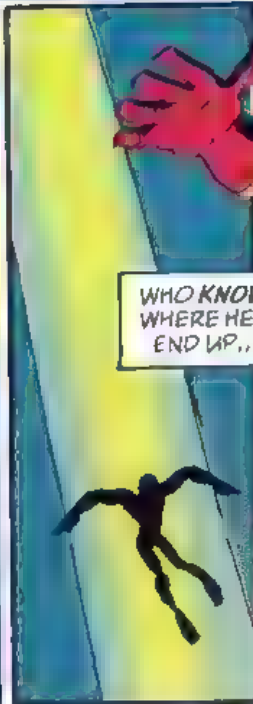
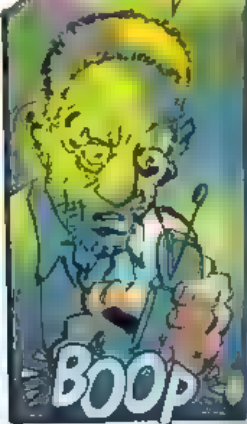
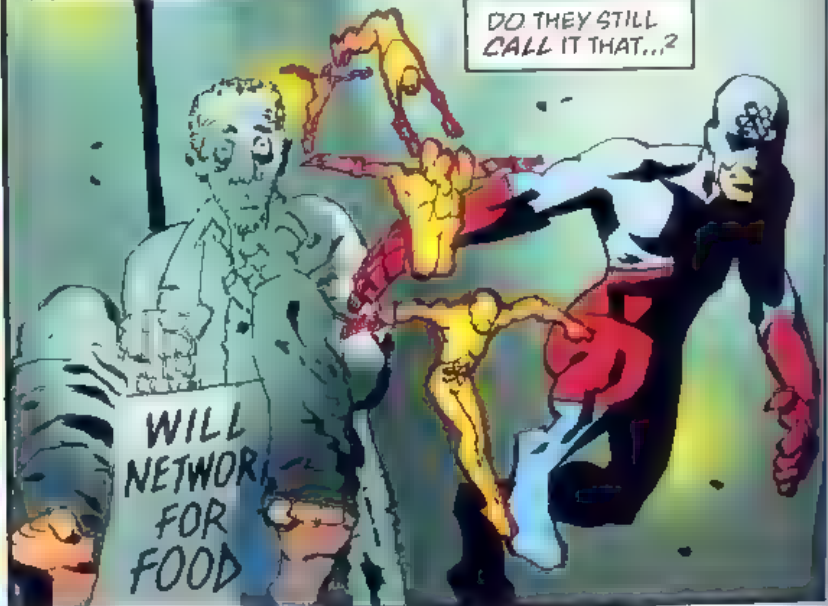
...TWO!...
...ONE!...
INSTANT SHRAPNEL.
NICE KNOWING YOU, HERB.
WHOOF!
PROFESSOR--WE ARE IN POSITION--
-AND I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THE NOSEBLEED.
COMES WITH THE TERRITORY, DOLL, WHEN YOU GET DOWN SMALL ENOUGH--
--NOTHING THE HUMAN BODY DOES IS PRETTY.
I'LL GUM UP THE SOFTWARE--
--AND MEET YOU AT THE CORE IN NINETY SECONDS.
THERE'S LAUGHTER IN HIS VOICE
NOT A TRACE OF FEAR

A QUICK HOP INTO THE DATA STREAM.
BELLY-SURFING AN ELECTRON.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
MEANWHILE.
SPAKOWW
GAHH!
YOU LITTLE SHIT! I GOT YOU!
ONE OF MY BOYS LOSES HIS GRIP.
YOU BASTARDS!
NAIL HIM RALPH!
YOU BASTARDS!
BASTARDS!
HE CROSSES THE LINE.
GLAKK
RALPH! LORD, NO!

EYES SLIDEWAYS, DON!
SPUKK
YOU LITTLE--
GLAA!
A.N'T ALL FAN, ROB: SPIKE BILLY BERSERK!
SPUKK
SPIKE DON'T SHIV!
SPIKE BALLS NASTY!
SPUKK
BOSS BE GIVING WITH THE MAXIMUM SPANK YOU SEE.
JUST THEN
CLOSING IN ON THE HUB.
NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT.
THE CREEPS WHO RUN THINGS IN THIS CRAZY WORLD NEVER HAD A DEFENSE AGAINST THE ENTROPY EFFECT.
HERE'S HOPING THEY HAVEN'T DEVELOPED ONE, THESE PAST YEARS...
THE ENTROPY EFFECT.
CREATIVE CHAOS NUCLEAR CONFUSION
IT'S ENOUGH TO SCHITZ OUT THE PENTAGON'S MAINFRAME
CATCH A WAVE--
--AND YOU'RE SITTING ON TOP OF THE WORLD...
AT THAT VERY MOMENT.
SKIK
OHMYGOD
THIS IS TOTALLY AWESOME

TOTALLY
AWESOME
ALMOST
HYPNOTIC
NO!
DON'T LOOK AT IT!
IT'S ABOUT TO BLOW!
WHAT

WHAT
IT'S ALL RIGHT, KITTEN YOU CAN LOOK NOW
WHO... DID THIS?...
WHO... IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS?
EVER SINCE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS PASSED THE FREEDOM FROM INFORMATION ACT--
-JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING WORTH KNOWING HAS BEEN DECLARED A NATIONAL SECURITY SECRET.
LIKE HOW THEY MANAGE TO PROVIDE ELECTRICITY FOR A THIRD OF THE COUNTRY WITHOUT IT COSTING ANYBODY MUCH OF ANYTHING.
IT ALL GETS DOWN TO ONE MAN--A MAN THEY'VE KEPT RUNNING IN CIRCLES LIKE SOMEBODY'S PET HAMSTER.
THIS BEING SUMMER WITH EVERYBODY USING THEIR AIR CONDITIONERS, THEY MUST'VE BEEN WORKING HIM PRETTY HARD.
WE'RE HERE TO SET YOU FREE, SIR. BRUCE SENT US
BRUCE
DAMN HIM THEY'LL KILL IRIS FOR THIS.
NO, SIR. IRIS IS SAFE. WE HAVE HER. SHE MISSES YOU.
SHE ASKED ME TO GIVE YOU THIS.
THE RING'S ON HIS FINGER BEFORE I EVEN KNOW IT
I NEVER EVEN SEE HIM MOVE

HIS COSTUME EXPANDS ON CONTACT WITH AIR. DON'T ASK ME HOW.
ASK HIM.
BARRY ALLEN.
THE FLASH.
YOU CHANGED MY OUTFIT
HUH?
...UH, YEAH. THE OLD DESIGN WAS REALLY... OLD.
KIDS, THESE DAYS CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN JUST PLAIN OLD AND CLASSIC.
I ASSUME BRUCE GAVE YOU AN EXIT STRATEGY?
HUH?... RIGHT EXIT STRATEGY YEAH. YOU.
FAIR ENOUGH. HOLD YOUR BREATH
PALMER-- YOU COMING ALONG FOR THE RIDE?
I'LL FIND MY OWN WAY, THANKS
I'M GETTING WHIPLASH JUST WATCHING YOU.

BARRY ALLEN
THE FLASH.
THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE.
AW SPEEDO, YOU DAMN SHOWOFF...
THUD
NOT QUITE ONE SECOND LATER.
SKAK
NICE VIEW, HUH?
SO WHERE ARE WE? MARS OR SOMETHING?
WE'RE IN UTAH. I'VE ALWAYS LOVED UTAH.
THIS IS SO COOL.

RIGHT ABOUT THEN.
LOSS OF MOTIVE POWER CATASTROPHIC. DEPLOYING EMERGENCY RESERVES.
ALL UNITS PROCEED TO CORE. SHOOT TO KILL. REPEAT: SHOOT TO KILL. PROPERTY DAMAGE ACCEPTABLE.
AT LEAST THE MODEMS STILL WORK
PALMER'S OWN "EXIT STRATEGY."
EVEN BEFORE THOSE ROTTEN BUMS TOSSED HIM INTO A PETRI DISH--
--HE'D LEARNED HOW TO SKATE A COMM SIGNAL--
--AND TRAVEL WIRELESS.
HAD TO PICK THE PHONE NUMBER AT RANDOM.
WHO KNOWS WHERE HE'LL END UP...
I'M THE GO-TO GUY!
YOU NEED ME AT THIS MEETING! IT'S YOUR ASS IF YOU SCREW THIS UP! YOU NEED ME!
HOLD ON. I GOT ANOTHER CALL
THIS BETTER BE GOOD. I'M NOT MADE OUT OF TIME.
BOOP
WHAT THE HELL?!
PARDON ME. JUST PASSING THROUGH
SAN FRANCISCO. GETTING BACK EAST WILL BE A HIKE.
BEST BET IS TO FIND SOMEBODY WITH A LAPTOP--AND HITCH A RIDE ON THE INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY
DO THEY STILL CALL IT THAT...?
WILL NETWORK FOR FOOD

JUST TRY TO IGNORE THIS, CLARK
JUST TRY TO SWEEP THIS ONE UNDER THE RUG.
YOUR MASTERS CONTROL ALMOST EVERY ASPECT OF HUMAN LIFE -- BUT THEY CAN'T CONTROL INFORMATION. THAT TIME HAS PASSED.
IT'S THE INFORMATION AGE, OLD PAL. YOU CAN'T SILENCE ME --AND YOU CAN'T STOP ME
AND I'M PLAYING FOR KEEPS
AND I'M GOING TO WIN.
YOU HEARD IT HERE FIRST, ADVENTURE LOVERS! THE GENIE IS OUT OF THE BOTTLE! THE BOYS ARE BACK IN TOWN!
GUYS DECKED OUT LIKE BATS! NEED I SAY MORE?
AND HERE'S A BLAST FROM THE PAST! IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHO THIS HUNK IS -- ASK YOUR DAD!
KIDS, THESE DAYS, CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN JUST PLAIN OLD AND CLASSIC.
LOVE THOSE TIGHTS! AND HE'S GOT BUNS OF STEEL! OOH, DADDY--COME QUICK!
THESE SPANDEX-SPORTERS KICKED UP QUITE THE RUCKUS!
WHILE EVERYTHING'S UP AND RUNNING HERE IN SUNNY CALIFORNIA--
--IT'S STILL LIGHTS OUT FROM METROPOLIS TO MIAMI!
NOW BACK TO THAT KILLER ASTEROID!

BRUCE, YOU SOCIOPATH.

YOU MONOMANIAC

YOU MEGALOMANIAC.

OUR WORLD IS A GLASS MENAGERIE, EASILY SHATTERED-- A POORLY BALANCED HOUSE OF CARDS, SET TO TOPPLE--AND YOU'RE JUST THE MAN TO BRING THE WHOLE WORKS DOWN.

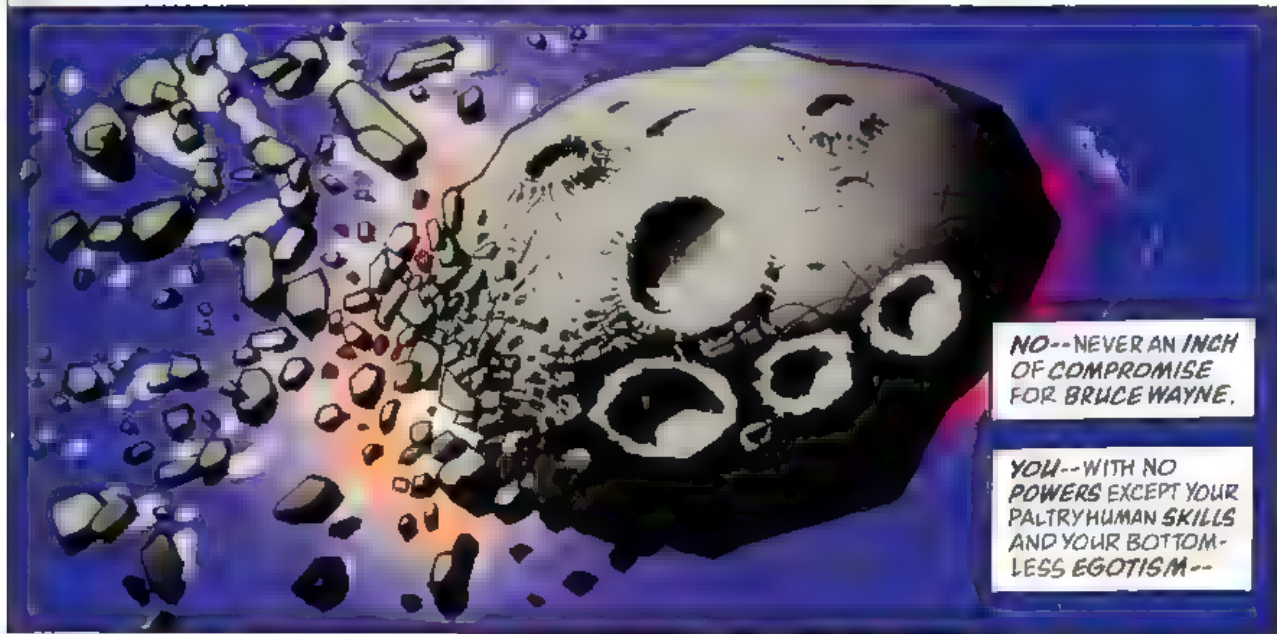
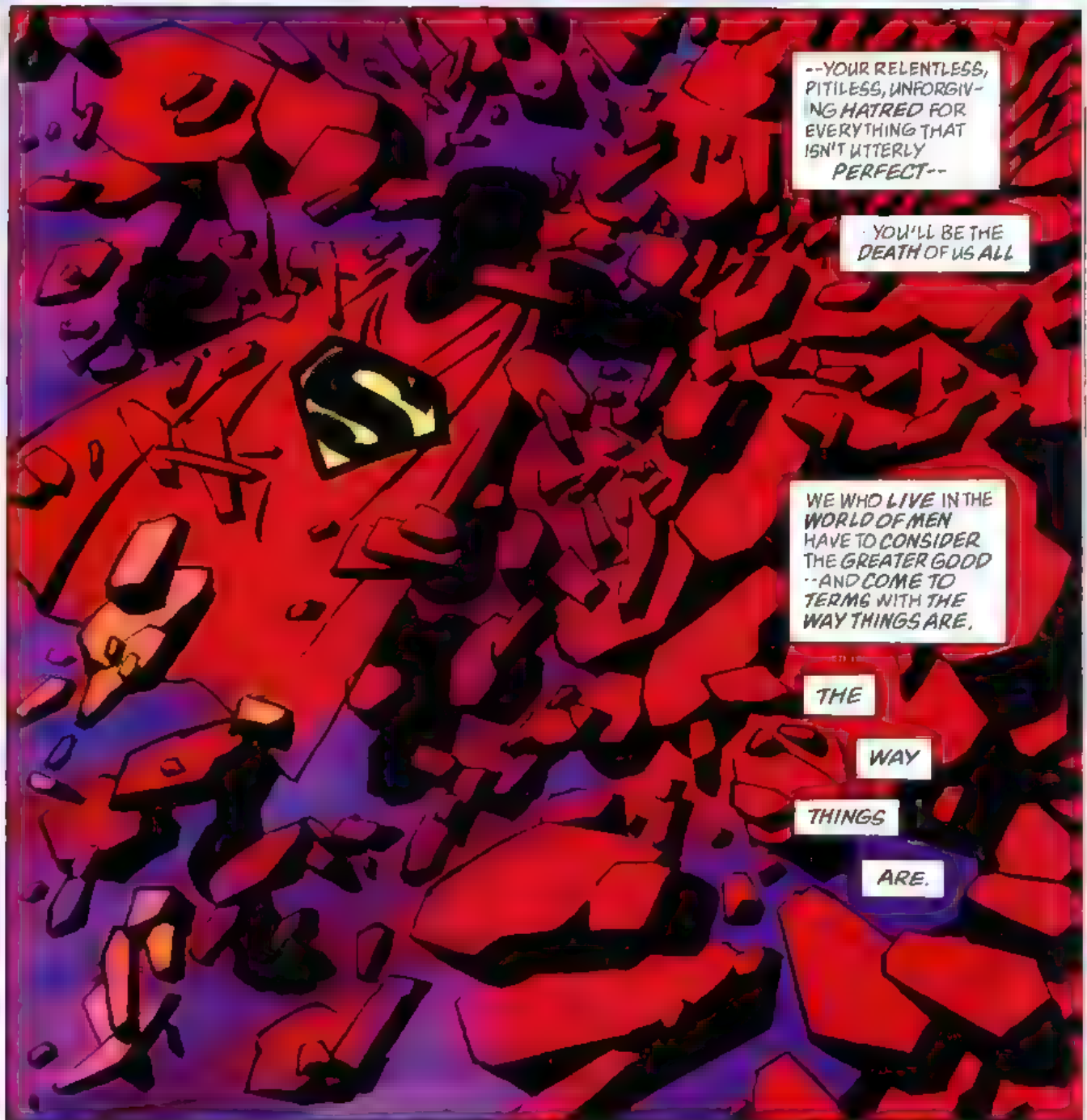
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW BAD IT COULD GET.

AND YOU COULDN'T CARE LESS.

NO. IT'S NOTHING TO YOU. THERE'S NO ROOM IN YOUR STEEL-TRAP HEART TO FEEL FOR THE SUFFERING YOU'LL SO GLEEFULLY CAUSE. IT WORRIES YOU NOT FOR ONE SECOND THAT YOUR MAD ARROGANCE WILL BRING DEATH-- AND BLOODY GENO-CIDE--DOWN UPON OUR HEADS

AND UPON OUR CONSCIENCES.

YOU MONSTER

YOU BASTARD

--YOUR RELENTLESS, PITILESS, UNFORGIV-ING HATRED FOR EVERYTHING THAT ISN'T UTTERLY PERFECT--

YOU'LL BE THE DEATH OF US ALL

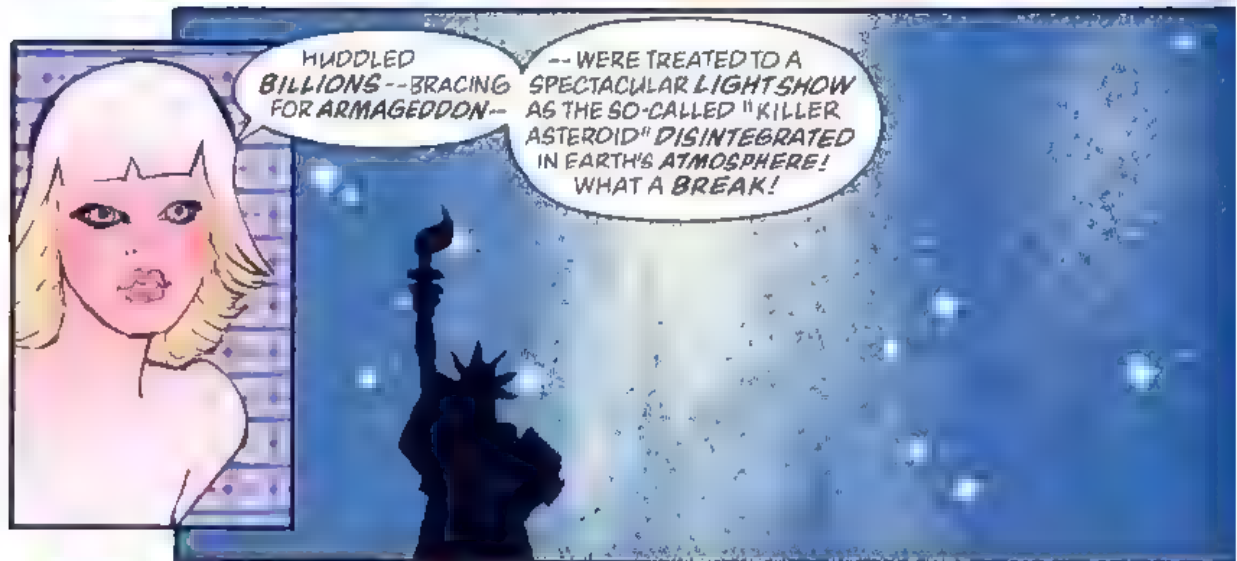
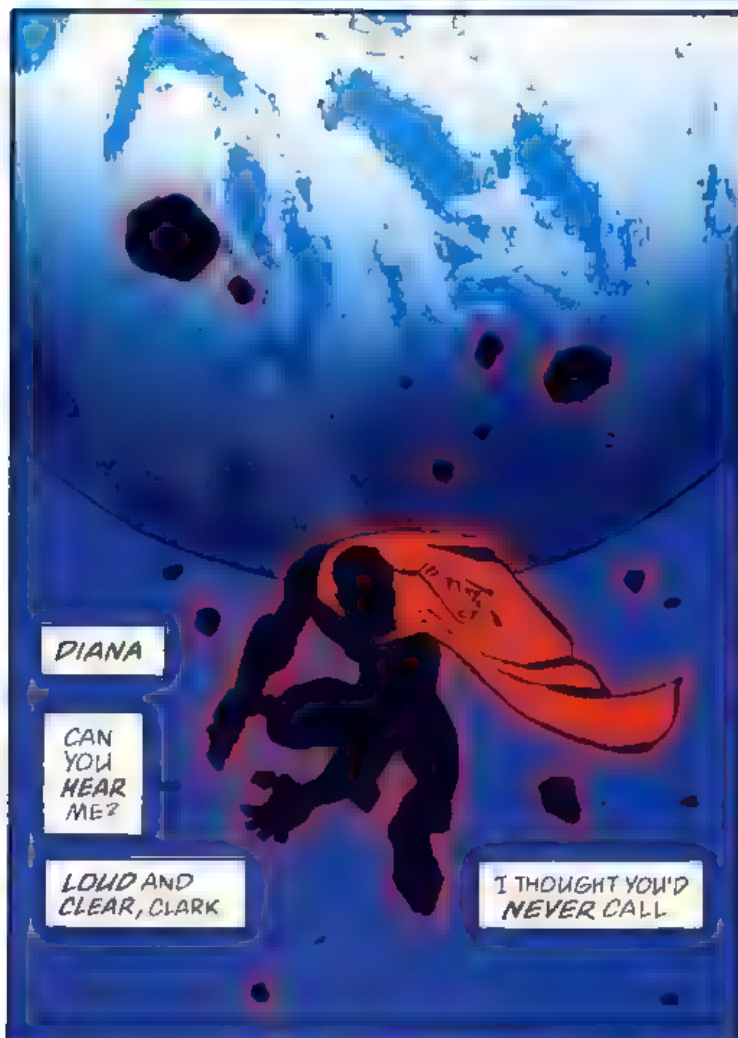
WE WHO LIVE IN THE WORLD OF MEN HAVE TO CONSIDER THE GREATER GOOD --AND COME TO TERMS WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE.

THE

WAY

THINGS

ARE.

I LOVE TWO PLANETS. ONE IS DEAD. ONE LIVES.
I LOVE TWO PEOPLES. BOTH LIVE--ON THE RAZOR'S EDGE.
YOU'VE PUT THEM ALL IN PERIL.
I MAY HAVE TO KILL YOU THIS TIME
I SWEAR I COULD

HUDDLED BILLIONS--BRACING FOR ARMAGEDDON--
--WERE TREATED TO A SPECTACULAR LIGHT SHOW AS THE SO-CALLED "KILLER ASTEROID" DISINTEGRATED IN EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE! WHAT A BREAK!

DIANA
CAN YOU HEAR ME?
LOUD AND CLEAR, CLARK
I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER CALL

I NEED TO SEE YOU, DIANA. I NEED TO MEET WITH YOU
ANYTIME, DARLING
ANYWHERE

MEANWHILE
CHARLES PAPPAS TWENTY-YEAR VETERAN, METROPOLIS POLICE FORCE
SHATTERED SPINE PARALYZED
RALPH JOHNSON FATHER OF TWO
DECAPITATED, MURDERED
I DIDN'T HAVE ANY CHOICE!

WRONG. YOU HAD SEVEN OTHER OPTIONS AND YOU'VE BEEN TRAINED IN EACH OF THEM THERE WAS NO EXCUSE
THIS IS A WAR!
IN THE CAVE.
MY FIELD COMMANDER HANDLES A DISCIPLINE PROBLEM.
FIGURE SPIKE AIN'T A TOTAL HOLE, DON
MAXIMUM SPANK, ROB YOU SEE

RIGHT THIS IS A WAR. AND OUR COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF LAID DOWN PRECISE RULES OF ENGAGEMENT. AND YOU BROKE THEM
THEY WERE THE ENEMY!

WRONG. THEY WERE THE ENEMY'S SLAVES. WE DON'T KILL SLAVES
I DON'T HAVE TO TAKE THIS SHIT FROM YOU! JUST LOOK AT YOU!
I COULD BREAK YOU IN HALF!

WRONG AGAIN

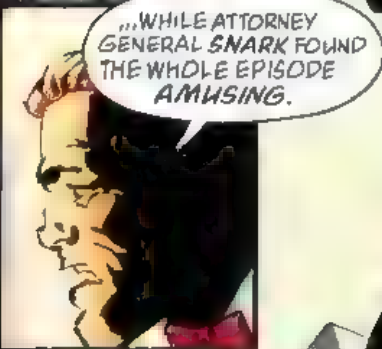
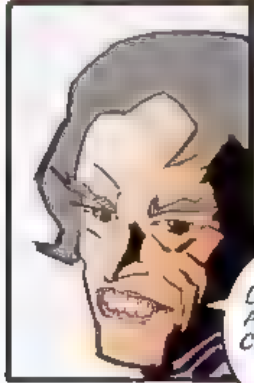
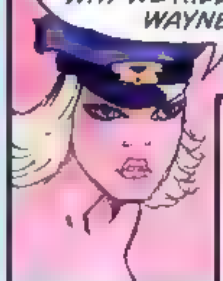
GARKK
WHUKK
KLUNCH

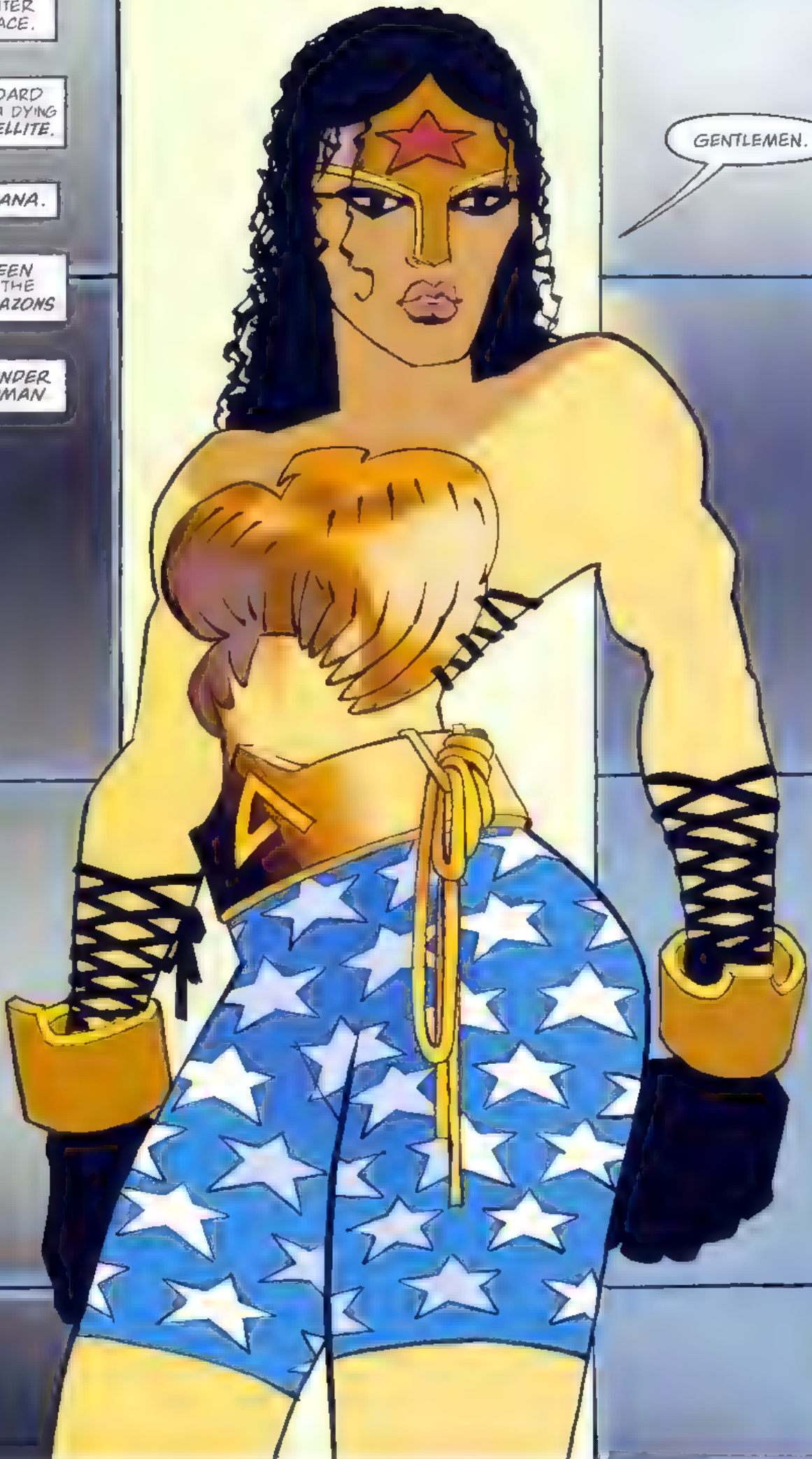
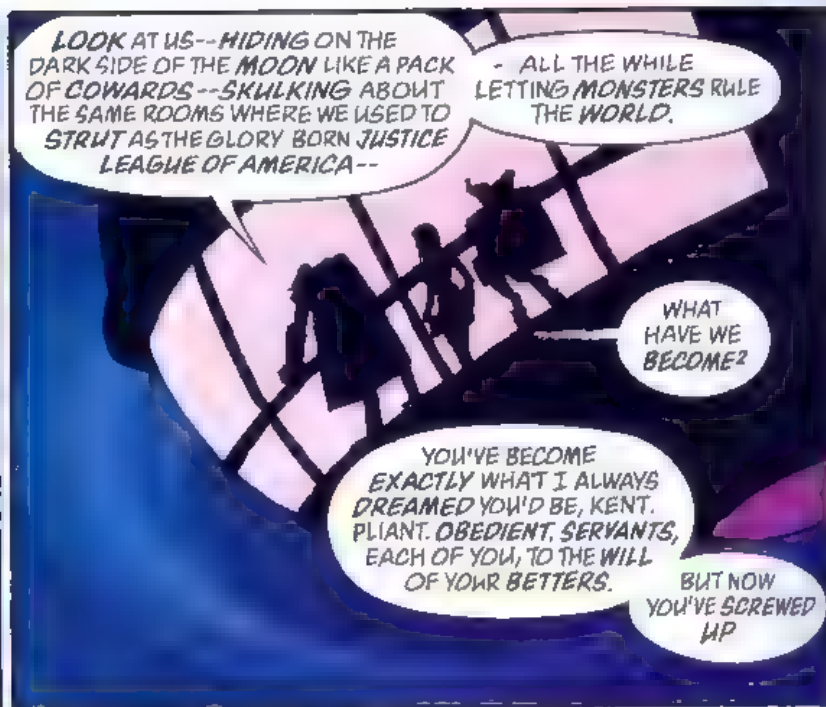
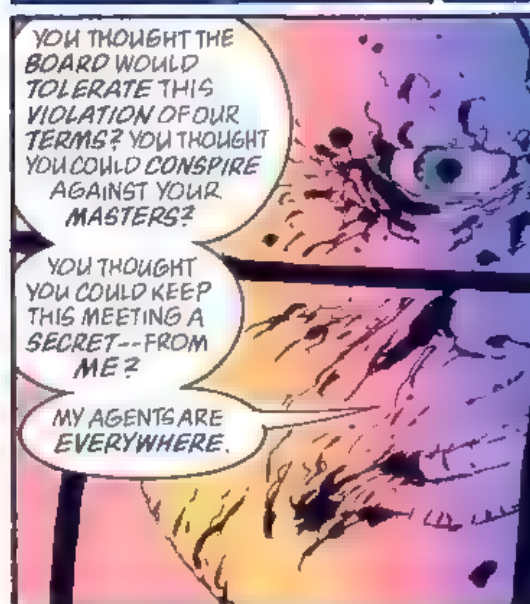
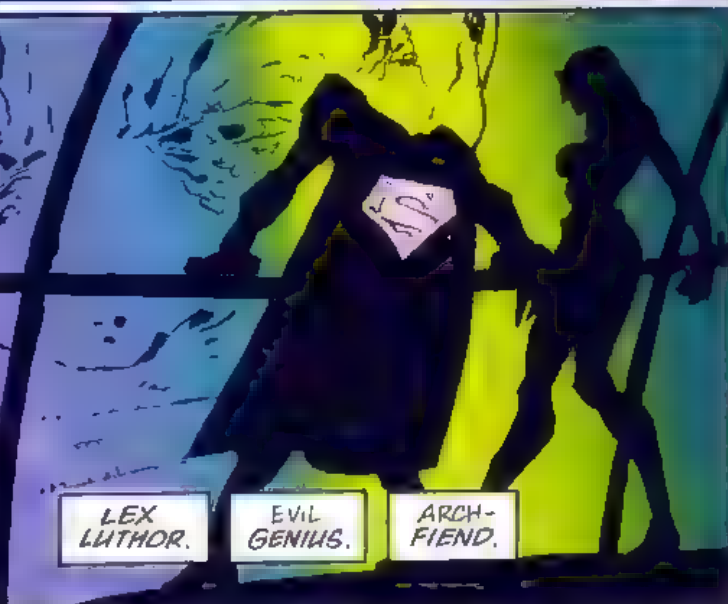
KRAK

LATRINE DUTY FOR A MONTH.
PATCH HIM UP. SPARE THE ANESTHETIC.

SOON
AWAY FROM THE REST
SHE LETS HERSELF FEEL IT

GOOD GIRL. GOOD SOLDIER.

LET THOSE WHO WORSHIP EVIL'S MIGHT--
THE SHORT, SAD CAREER OF WILFREDO MENDOZA-- SELF-PROCLAIMED NEW GREEN LANTERN OF OUR SOLAR SYSTEM--
--CAME TO A SWIFT AND IGNOMINIOUS END AS HE ATTEMPTED TO DISRUPT A DATA PURGE AT THE CENTRAL CITY INFOPLEX--
--WHEN AUTHORITIES ASCERTAINED THAT MENDOZA'S "POWER RING" PRODUCED NOTHING MORE THAN A HARMLESS LASER SHOW.
CCPD
IN CUSTODY, MENDOZA REMAINED DEFIANT...
HAL JORDAN WAS THE SHIT!
I MEAN THAT IN A GOOD WAY!
...WHILE ATTORNEY GENERAL SNARK FOUND THE WHOLE EPISODE AMUSING.
THERE'S BEEN QUITE ENOUGH TALK ABOUT THESE SO CALLED SUPERHEROES. ISN'T IT TIME WE ALL GREW UP?
BLOW IT OUT YOUR ASS, YOU OLD BAG!
MENDOZA WAS RIGHT. HAL JORDAN WAS A GODSEND TO HUMANITY.
BUT WHEN WE TURNED ON HIM AND ALL HIS KIND--

AW, SPEEDO, YOU DAMN SHOW-OFF...
INCREDIBLE POWERS! IMPOSSIBLE DEEDS! WITH US NOW--JAMES GORDON, AUTHOR OF "TRIUMPH OF THE PYGMIES: WHY WE KILLED BRUCE WAYNE."
SIR--WHAT'S GOING ON?
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT'S GOING ON! THE CHICKENS ARE COMING TO ROOST!
NO--NOT THE CHICKENS
IT'S THE EAGLES THAT ARE COMING, YOU BASTARDS!
--JORDAN TOOK US AT OUR WORD--
--AND VANISHED FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

OUTER SPACE.
ABOARD ON A DYING SATELLITE.
DIANA.
QUEEN OF THE AMAZONS
WONDER WOMAN
GENTLEMEN.

A CREATURE OF MAGIC.
CAPTAIN MARVEL
MA'AM.
GOODNESS YOU HAVEN'T AGED A DAY.
HOW ARE YOU HOLDING UP, BATSON?
BETTER THAN KENT. IS HE IN A MOOD CAN'T GET A WORD OUT OF HIM
CLARK?
SPEAK TO ME
I DIDN'T COME ALL THIS WAY TO WATCH YOU MOPE, MISTER.
SPEAK TO ME
QUIT POUTING, FARM BOY.
SPEAK.

WE CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS.

LOOK AT US--HIDING ON THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON LIKE A PACK OF COWARDS--SKULKING ABOUT THE SAME ROOMS WHERE WE USED TO STRUT AS THE GLORY BORN JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA--
- ALL THE WHILE LETTING MONSTERS RULE THE WORLD.
WHAT HAVE WE BECOME?
YOU'VE BECOME EXACTLY WHAT I ALWAYS DREAMED YOU'D BE, KENT. PLIANT. OBEDIENT. SERVANTS, EACH OF YOU, TO THE WILL OF YOUR BETTERS.
BUT NOW YOU'VE SCREWED UP

YOU THOUGHT THE BOARD WOULD TOLERATE THIS VIOLATION OF OUR TERMS? YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD CONSPIRE AGAINST YOUR MASTERS?
YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD KEEP THIS MEETING A SECRET--FROM ME?
MY AGENTS ARE EVERYWHERE.
LEX LUTHOR.
EVIL GENIUS.
ARCH-FIEND.

EVERYWHERE EVEN ON YOUR LOVELY ISLAND, DEAR DIANA.
IT WOULD BE A PITY TO INCINERATE IT YOUR WOMEN MAY YET BE OF SOME USE.

AND IT WOULD BE JUST PLAIN CRUEL TO TORTURE YOUR SWEET LITTLE MARY TO DEATH, BATSON...
YOU BUM.

...STILL, SOME SMALL GESTURE IS MERITED SOME GENTLE SLAP ON THE WRIST. JUST SO WE ALL UNDER-STAND EACH OTHER
WHICH BRINGS US BACK TO YOU, KENT

ALLOW ME TO TURN THE STAGE OVER TO MY OLD, PLANET-CONQUERING PARTNER...
NOT A CONQUEROR, LEX.
MERELY A HUMBLE COLLECTOR.
BRAINIAC.
THE PLAGUE OF WORLDS.
AND KANDOR
THE BOTTLE CITY OF KANDOR.
I WAS NEVER PROPERLY THANKED FOR RESCUING THIS PROUD CITY FROM YOUR DOOMED PLANET, KENT. TRUE, I STRIPPED YOUR FELLOW KRYPTONIANS OF THEIR POWERS -I MADE THEM VERY, VERY SMALL--BUT THEY LIVE.
AT MY WHIM, THEY LIVE.
MY WHIM... I KNOW YOU'VE GOT GOOD EYES, BOY. WATCH CLOSELY
DON'T... DO THIS
I BEG YOU
DON'T

WATCH-- AND LISTEN TO THE PLAINTIVE CRY OF MY CAPTIVE REBEL LEADER--
--YOUR FAIR COUSIN KARA... SHE'S CALLING YOUR NAME...
KAL! WHERE ARE YOU?
WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN US?
DON'T MISS A DETAIL. AFTER ALL, MY BOTTLE HOLDS YOUR KIN.
YOUR ONLY KIN.
YOUR ONLY KIN.
AH A FAMILY IS SELECTED
AN ENTIRE FAMILY
ANOTHER KRYPTONIAN BLOODLINE--
--LOST FOR ALL TIME

WE KNOW YOU'RE UPSET. BUT COME ON. BUCK UP. THERE'S A BRIGHTSIDE TO EVERYTHING. YOU HEROES HAVE SAVED US TIME, GETTING TOGETHER LIKE THIS WE CAN GIVE YOU THREE YOUR MARCHING ORDERS ALL AT ONCE.
YOU WILL FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO RAY PALMER AND BARRY ALLEN--AND WHO IS BEHIND THESE RECENT DISTURBANCES--AND YOU WILL DELIVER THE LOT TO US.
DIANA SAYS SOMETHING
I CAN'T HEAR IT.

MY FRIENDS GO TO THEIR SHIPS
THEY FALL TO EARTH

BRUCE
YOU AND ME, WE'RE GONNA HAVE US A TALK

WE KNOW YOU'RE UPSET. BUT COME ON. BUCK UP. THERE'S A BRIGHT SIDE TO EVERYTHING. YOU HEROES HAVE SAVED US TIME, GETTING TOGETHER LIKE THIS. WE CAN GIVE YOU THREE YOUR MARCHING ORDERS ALL AT ONCE.
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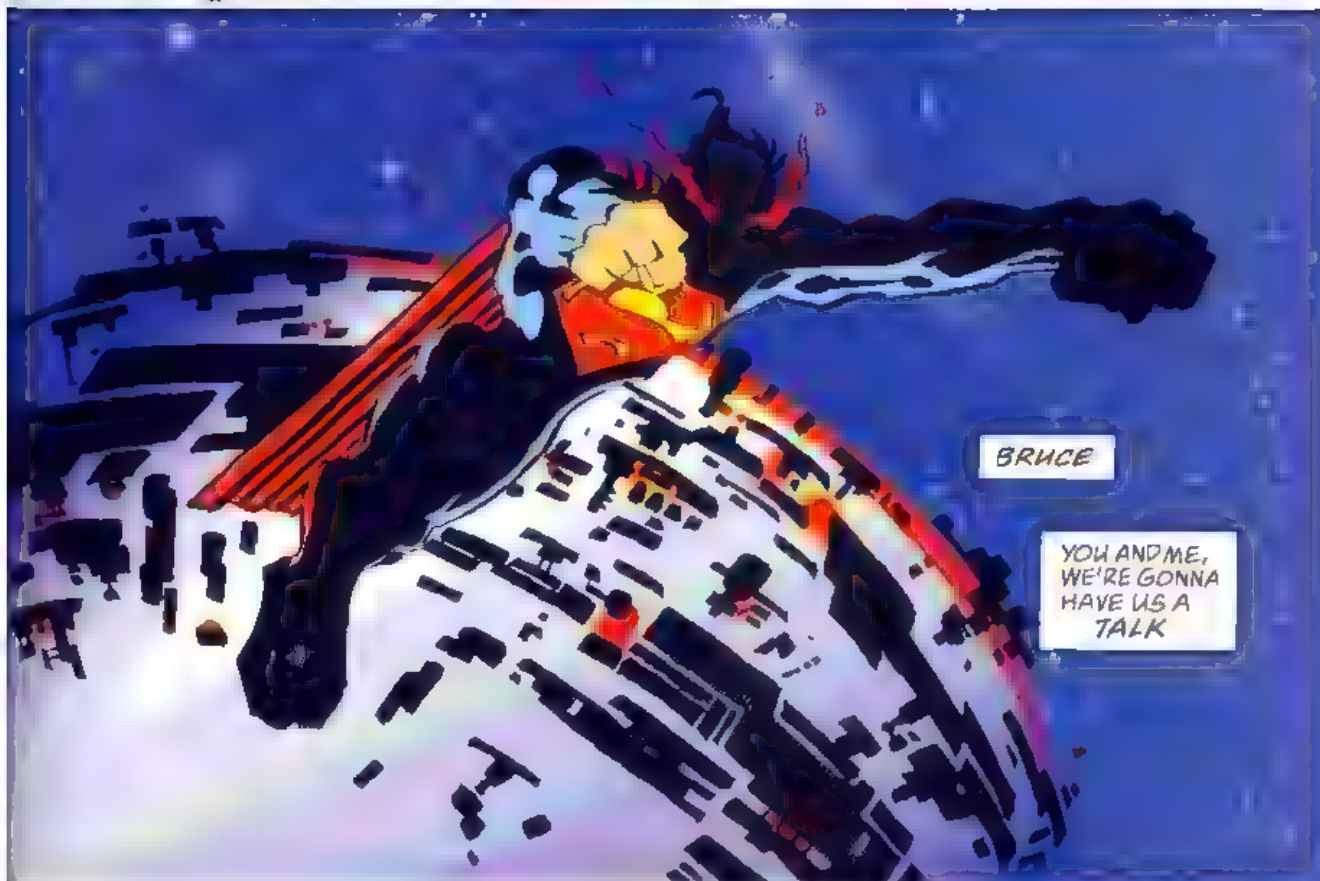
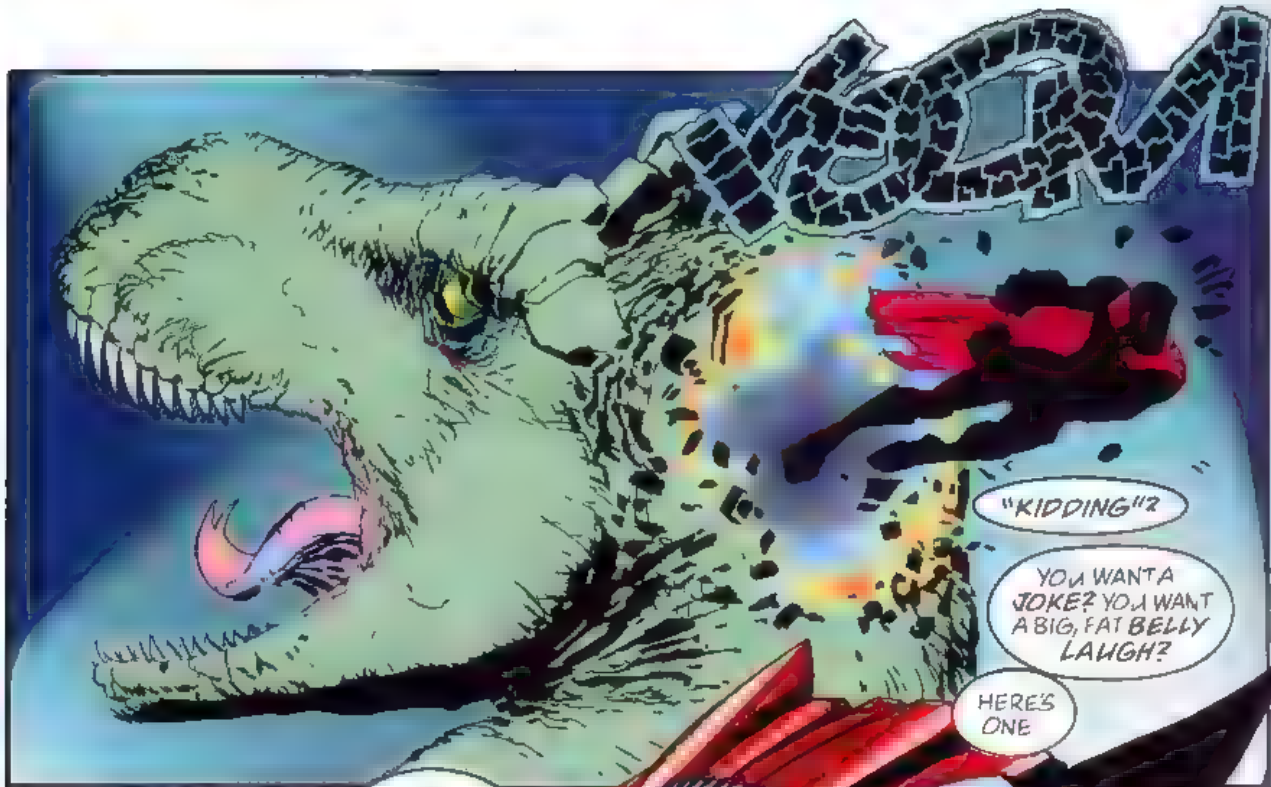

BRUCE
YOU AND ME, WE'RE GONNA HAVE US A TALK

LOOK. UP IN THE SKY
GOSH, WE'RE ALL IMPRESSED, DOWN HERE
WE'VE GOT INCOMING!
BIG TIME!
GOODNESS, CLARK YOUR BLOOD IS UP.
THAT SONIC BOOM OF YOURS MUST'VE TAKEN OUT HALF THE WINDOWS IN GOTHAM.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO WASTE SO MANY TAX-PAYER DOLLARS.
BOOM
CHILDREN, TO YOUR QUARTERS. LEAVE THIS LITTLE CHALLENGE TO THE OLD FARTS
TUNE IN. WATCH--AND LEARN.
WHOOF
THIS IS GONNA BE LARGE!
YOU'RE AS SUBTLE AS EVER, BIG GUY.
NOBODY'D EVER KNOW YOU WERE COMING.

KROOMM
BUT ME, I NEVER HAD A DOUBT YOU'D BE ON YOUR WAY--THE MOMENT I INCONVENIENCED THE DIRTBAGS WHO PULL YOUR STRINGS.
AND I'VE HAD YEARS TO PREPARE MY WELCOME
BRUCE--IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE LIKE THIS BETWEEN US
KRUMK
RARR!
SURE IT DOES. I'VE GOT A WORLD TO SET FREE--AND YOU'RE IN MY WAY
MEET FIDO
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING

VROOM
"KIDDING"?
YOU WANT A JOKE? YOU WANT A BIG, FAT BELLY LAUGH?
HERE'S ONE
HI! ME AM YOUR BIGGEST FAN!
BIZARRO NO. 12
FUDD
ME LOVE YOU SO MUCH ME WANT TO MAKE YOU DIE VERY PAINFUL DEATH!
YOU'VE HIT A NEW LOW, BRUCE
SPOKK
WHEE! YOU KNOCK MY BLOCK OFF! ME AM SO HAPPY!
DO IT AGAIN!

YOU'VE SLOWED DOWN, OLD BEAN.
LET ME SHOW YOU "FASTER THAN A SPEEDING BULLET."
THPTHPTHP
BARRY-- WHAT...
...?
POOM! POOM! POOM! POOM! POOM
POOM!
POOM! POOM!
POOM! POOM!
POOM! POOM!
POOM!

THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH ALL THOSE HIGH AND MIGHTY POWERS. THEY MADE YOU COCKY. OVER-CONFIDENT.
YOU NEVER LEARNED TO THINK STRATEGICALLY.
I DID.
PARDON ME WHILE I DROP NINETY TONS OF PLANET EARTH ON YOU

RMMBLL

RISE AND SHINE, BOY SCOUT

AIN'T NONE OF US GETTING ANY YOUNGER.

♪

..GOT THE WORLD ON A STRING...

OLIVER QUEEN.

BILLIONAIRE TURNED COMMUNIST.

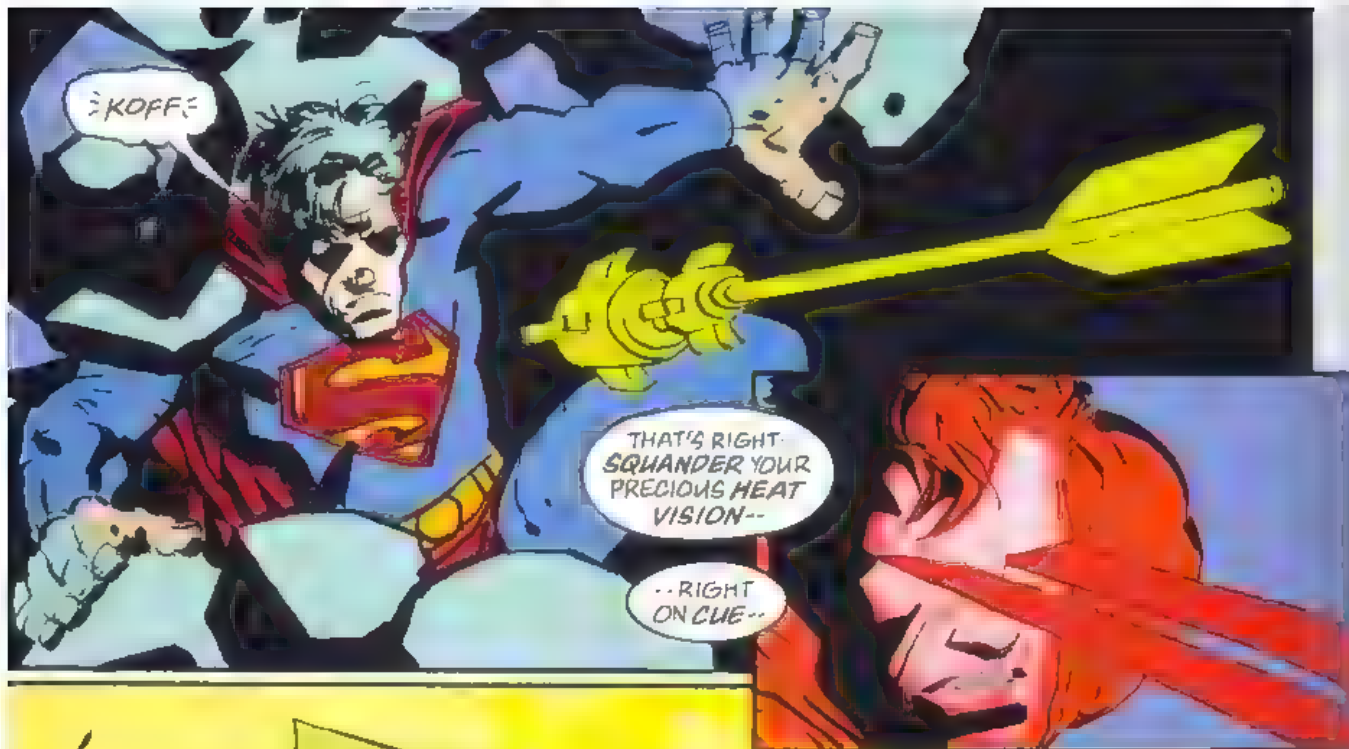
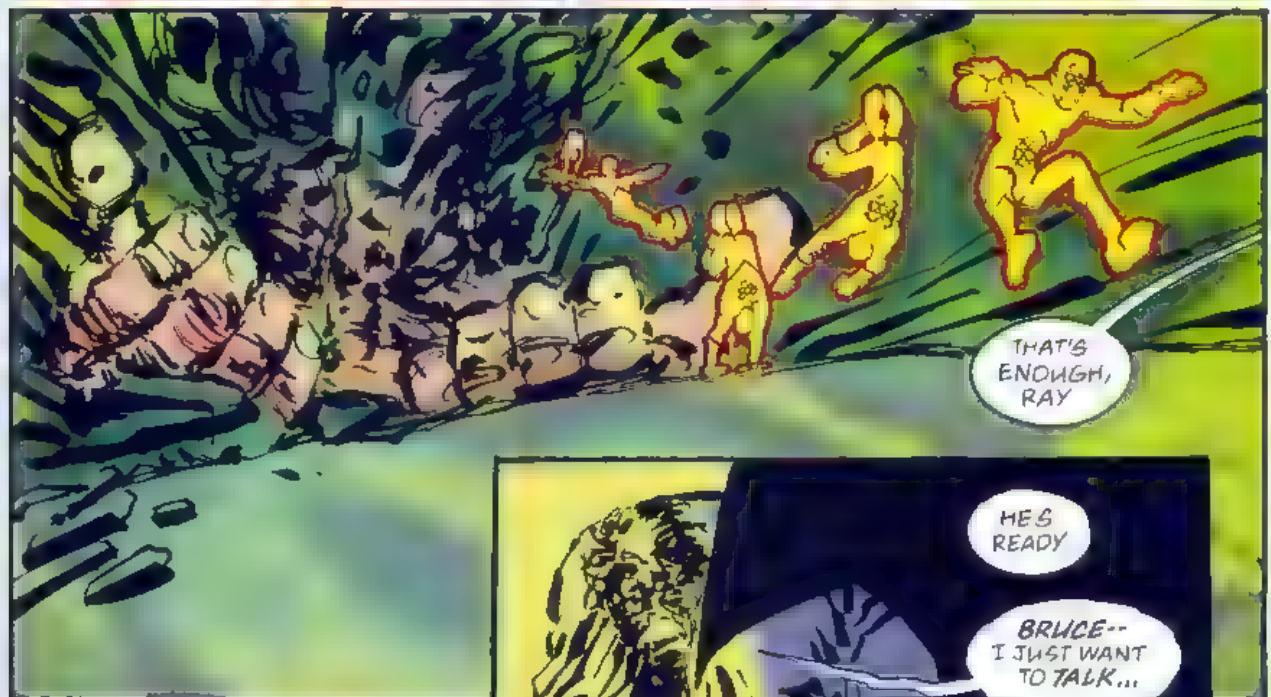
AS FINE AN ARCHER AS THE WORLD HAS EVER SEEN.

GREEN ARROW

...GOT THE STRING AROUND MY FINGER...

...THERE YOU ARE

IT'S ABOUT GODDAMN TIME.

KOFF
THAT'S RIGHT. SQUANDER YOUR PRECIOUS HEAT VISION--
--RIGHT ON CUE--
--DETONATE THAT LOAD OF KRYPTONITE NAPALM.
YOU'VE NEVER BEEN MUCH IN THE SMARTS DEPARTMENT
AND WHEN YOU'RE PUSHING SIXTY--SMARTS COUNT
HE'S ALL YOURS, PROFESSOR PALMER. BE GENTLE
THE MAN'S HAVING A BAD DAY.

IT'S NOTHING PERSONAL, CLARK
SURE, I'M ENJOYING EVERY SECOND OF THIS--
--BUT IT'S NOTHING PERSONAL
HAVING A VERY LITTLE MAN BOUNDING ABOUT YOUR INNER EAR--
--WORKS HELL ON YOUR EQUILIBRIUM, DOESN'T IT?
I'D FEEL SORRY FOR YOU
--BUT I DON'T
THAT'S ENOUGH, RAY
HE'S READY
BRUCE-- I JUST WANT TO TALK...

CHOK

KNCH

I'M DONE TALKING
GET OUT OF MY CAVE

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